# CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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# IRAN LOSES ITS 'IRON' GRIP

## Iran's hard-line supreme leader is dead | Ayatollah Ali Khamenei embodied fearsome anti-Western rule

### Who was Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

**Ali Hosseini Khamenei**

Supreme Leader of Iran (1989-2026)

**Born:** 19 April 1939, Mashhad, Iran

**Died:** 28 February 2026 (age 86)

(In US-Israel strikes on Tehran)

**KEY ROLES**

- Supreme Leader of Iran, commander-in-chief of Aarmed forces
- Oversaw the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)
- Controlled judiciary, state media, and foreign policy

**EARLY LIFE & RISE**

- Studied Islamic theology in Mashhad and Qom
- Follower of revolutionary cleric
- Arrested multiple times under the Shah
- President of Iran (1981-1989)

**NUCLEAR & FOREIGN POLICY**

- Oversaw Iranian nuclear programme
- Negotiated 2015 nuclear deal; opposed US withdrawal in 2018
- Advocated strategic autonomy against Western pressure

**REGIONAL INFLUENCE**

- Expanded Iran's reach in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Yemen
- Supported Bashar al-Assad and anti-Israel groups
- Maintained hostile stance toward Israel

**LEADERSHIP STYLE**

- Firm, cautious, heavily reliant on IRGC and clerical networks
- Viewed as defender of sovereignty by supporters
- Criticized for restricting political freedoms

**Death:** Killed in a massive US-Israel air attack on Iran on Feb 28

**TEHRAN**

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed on the first day of massive US and Israeli air strikes on Iran's Tehran on Saturday, ending 36 years of absolute rule over the Islamic Republic.

The 86-year-old ruler of the past three decades - one of the longest in the world - was killed at his compound in downtown Tehran, confirmed on Iranian state TV. Trump said earlier that Khamenei and other Iranian officials "couldn't escape US intelligence and the advanced tracking systems".

The operation—codenamed 'Roaring Lion' by the Israeli military and 'Operation Epic Fury' by the US Pentagon—began at dawn. The strikes targeted locations in Tehran, Isfahan, Qom, Karaj, and Kermanshah.

A 40-day mourning period for the longtime Iranian leader has been announced.

Khamenei took the helm in Iran in 1989, following the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the charismatic leader who had spearheaded the Islamic revolution a decade earlier.

While Khomeini was the ideological force behind the revolution that ended the rule of the Pahlavi monarchy, it was Khamenei who shaped the military and paramilitary apparatus that forms both Iran's defence against its enemies and provides it with influence well beyond its borders.

**Air India will operate its flights to North America and Europe using alternative routes over available airspaces in the Middle East and cancel six flights to various European cities on March 2.**

Before becoming the supreme leader, he had led Iran as president through a bloody war with Iraq in the 1980s. The grinding conflict, coupled with a sense of isolation among many Iranians as Western countries backed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, deepened Khamenei's distrust of the West, generally, and the US, in particular, analysts say.

**The early years**

Born in 1939 in the holy Shia city of Mashhad in northeast Iran, Khamenei was the son of a renowned Muslim leader and ethnic Azerbaijani from neighbouring Iraq. The family first settled in Tabriz in northwestern Iran before moving to Mashhad, a place favoured by religious pilgrims, where Khamenei's father led an Azerbaijani mosque.

Khamenei described his mother, Khadijeh Mirdamadi, as an avid Quran and book reader who instilled in her son a love of literature and poetry, and later supported her son as he joined the movement against the Pahlavi dynasty's rule.

He started his studies at age four, learning the Quran, and completed his primary education at the first Islamic school in Mashhad. He did not finish high school, instead attending theology schools and learning from Islamic scholars of the time.

### How CIA intel led to fatal strike on Khamenei

**Washington:** Crucial tip off from the US Central Intelligence Agency, indicating that Khamenei would attend a meeting of senior Iranian officials, helped shape the joint US-Israeli strikes. He was killed in strikes on Tehran after the US-Israel vowed to pursue regime change in the Islamic republic. The CIA had been tracking Khamenei for months, building detailed assessments of his movements and patterns. They launched the attack shortlyafter the CIA learned about the meeting of top Iranian political and security officials on Saturday morning.

### After Khamenei's death, Iran flies red flag over mosques

In a symbolic gesture signalling retaliation, a red "flag of revenge" was raised over the dome of the Jamkaran Mosque, which is a site of religious significance for Iran. Following the death of their Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the flag was raised to symbolise justice and revenge. According to several media reports, the red flag atop the mosque in the city of Qom reflects mounting anger and vengeance among supporters of the leader as tensions in the Middle East escalate.

### Massive protests erupt in parts of India over Khamenei's death

**Srinagar/Lucknow:** From Kashmir to Karnataka, Shia mourners took to the streets in various parts of India on Sunday to express outrage and grief over the death of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a US-Israel strike. It triggered a wave of protests and mourning across the world, including India. Kashmir, which has about 15 lakh Shias, witnessed major protests at Lal Chowk, Saida Kadal, Budgam, Bandipora, Anantnag and Pulwama. The protesters were seen beating their chests as they shouted anti-US and anti-Israel slogans.

### Khomeini's India connection

Kintoor was the birthplace of Syed Ahmed Musavi, Khomeini's grandfather. Born in the early 19th century, Musavi left India for Najaf in Iraq — a prominent centre of Shia learning — before eventually settling in the Iranian city of Khomein in 1834. It was there that the family laid down roots that would, a century later, culminate in political and religious power at the highest level.

## Oil tanker with 15 Indians on board hit off Oman coast

**OMAN:** A Palau-flagged oil tanker under US sanctions was hit on Sunday off Oman's Musandam peninsula, injuring four people, the country's maritime security centre said. The 20-person crew of the Skylight tanker, including 15 Indian and five Iranian citizens, was evacuated after the attack, which occurred about five nautical miles north of Musandam's Khasab Port, on the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the Oman Maritime Security Centre said in an X post. It reported injuries of varying severity to four of the crew. Skylight's registered owner is Sea Force Inc., and it is managed by Red Sea Ship Management LLC, according to LSEG data.

## Iran targets US assets in Gulf

**DUBAI**

More explosions have been heard across the Gulf states, with at least three people killed in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as Iran carries out attacks in retaliation for attacks by the United States and Israel that killed its Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other top officials.

The explosions were heard for a second day on Sunday morning in Dubai, the UAE; Bahrain's capital, Manama; and Qatar's capital, Doha, raising fears of a wider conflict in a region long seen as a haven of peace and security in an otherwise turbulent Middle East.

The fresh explosions came after a day of deadly

Iranian strikes in the Emirati capital Abu Dhabi, which saw military bases and infrastructure, including airports, hit across the Gulf -- except for mediator Oman.

At Abu Dhabi's airport, at least one person was killed and seven wounded while Dubai airport, the world's busiest for international traffic and Kuwait's airport were also hit.

It may be recalled that Iran launched retaliatory strikes on the neighbouring Gulf states in response to the US and Israeli strikes on the Islamic Republic. ran has said it would target US bases in the region. It has hit a range of other targets. The attacks raised fears of a wider conflict and rattled a region long seen as a haven of peace and security in the turbulent Middle East.

Across the UAE, Iran fired 137 missiles and 209 drones at the territory, the country's defence ministry said, with fires and smoke reaching landmarks The Palm and Burj Al Arab.

### Explosion rocks Iran's capital

**Tehran:** An enormous explosion rocked Iran's capital on Sunday as the Israeli military said it was targeting the heart of the city. Earlier, Iran fired missiles at targets in Israel and Gulf Arab states after vowing massive retaliation for the killing of Khamenei by the US and Israel. The blast in Tehran sent a huge plume of smoke into the sky and shook the ground. It wasn't immediately clear what the target was. The blast appeared centered in a neighborhood that is home to the country's police HQ.

## Putin terms Khamenei's killing a 'cynical murder'

**MOSCO:** Russian President Vladimir Putin has called the targeted killing of Iran's supreme leader a "cynical murder". As per the Russian state media agency 'TASS', Putin described Khamenei's death as a murder that violated "all norms of human morality and international law." He said Khamenei would be remembered in Russia as an "outstanding statesman." Moscow and Tehran have long been key allies, with Iran providing Russia with military support including drones and ballistic missiles, and helping Moscow build a drone-manufacturing facility, amid its war on Ukraine. Roughly a week before the attack, Iran had inked an arms deal with Russia to buy thousands of shoulder-fired missiles, the Financial Times had reported. According to the deal, worth $589 million and signed in Moscow, Russia has to hand over 500 launch units and 2,500 missiles in the next three years, the report had said, citing leaked documents.

**ALARMING TREND**

## 'Mizoram tops cancer incidence, mortality in India'

**AIZAWL**

Mizoram has the highest cancer incidence and mortality rates in India, with Aizawl district reporting an age-adjusted incidence rate of 269.4 per one lakh men, health officials said on Sunday.

A senior Health and Family Welfare Department official said stomach and lung cancers are the leading causes of cancer in the state, largely driven by high tobacco and betel nut consumption, dietary habits, and genetic factors.

The official said the Mizoram government signed an Externally Aided Project loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank on January 23, for a project titled "Supporting Public Health Care System Strengthening to Achieve Universal Healthcare for Mizoram", popularly known as the Mizoram Universal Healthcare Scheme (MUHCS).

He added that the World Bank-funded Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project has been successfully implemented and is expected to close by March 2026.

Under this project, the Mizoram State Super Speciality Cancer and Research Centre is being set up in Aizawl under the Health and Family Welfare Department.

Addressing a function on Saturday in Aizawl, State Health and Family Welfare Minister Lalrinpuii expressed concern that Mizoram has one of the highest cancer incidence rates in India relative to its population.

She noted that even the Director of Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, where many Mizo cancer patients seek treatment, had remarked on the unusually high number of cancer cases among Mizos.

The Minister said that according to experts, the high consumption of tobacco products, unhealthy dietary habits including excessive intake of smoked meat, pork fat and oils, and lifestyle factors are major contributors to the state's cancer burden.

She stated that among women in India, breast cancer is the most common, followed by cervical cancer. Highlighting that 99.7 per cent of cervical cancer cases are caused by Human Papillomavirus (HPV), she described the free vaccination programme as a welcome and crucial preventive measure and urged all eligible 14-year-old girls to avail themselves of the vaccine.

The Minister also appreciated the dedication and hard work of healthcare workers from the Directorate level down to Sub-Centres.

Mizoram Chief Secretary Khilli Ram Meena, speaking at the same function, said that one out of every five cervical cancer patients globally is from India.

He termed the free vaccination drive for adolescent girls, future mothers of the nation, as a vital and timely intervention.

## 17 killed, 18 injured in Nagpur factory blast

**MUMBAI/ NAGPUR**

At least 17 people were killed and 18 others injured in a devastating explosion that occurred early this morning at SBL Energy Limited - a mining and industrial explosives manufacturing company located in Raulgaon, in Katol near Nagpur.

Nagpur Rural Superintendent of Police Harssh Poddar confirmed the deaths. The injured have been shifted to nearby hospitals as well as Orange City Hospital in Nagpur.

The exact cause of the explosion is yet to be determined. Rescue operations are ongoing and an investigation has been initiated.

The SBL company in Raulgaon manufactures detonators and other explosive materials used in mining. As workers had reported for duty as usual, a sudden and powerful explosion occurred during the detonator manufacturing process.

The sound of the blast was heard beyond the surrounding area, creating panic among villagers. The explosion was so intense that a part of the concerned unit collapsed. Thick plumes of smoke were seen rising into the sky following the incident.

QUICK READ

## Woman attempting suicide with 2 kids rescued

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**

Swift response by a Hoysala police team saved a 28-year-old woman and her two children after she allegedly tried to jump in front of a train near Agrahara Layout in Sampigehalli. She later told police she was a victim of domestic violence by her alcoholic husband.Residents heard children crying and looked out of their houses to find the woman seated on the railway track with the two minors. Alarmed, they called the police control room. A Hoysala patrol vehicle rushed to the spot and quickly moved the children away from the tracks and persuaded the woman to step aside.

## Maha racket: Min orders to monitor IVF centres in B'luru

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao directed department officials to monitor the functioning of IVF centres in Bengaluru following the recent busting of an alleged egg trafficking racket in Maharashtra.The directive comes after authorities in Badlapur, Maharashtra, uncovered an illegal network involving unethical stimulation, extraction and sale of human eggs. Three women were arrested in connection with the case, and preliminary investigation revealed at least 40 women were allegedly exploited as part of the racket. Rao told media that during the course of investigation, possible links to Bengaluru had been mentioned. If embryos or eggs are being extracted unethically, it amounts to a clear violation of Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021. I have instructed officials to keep a strict watch on IVF centres in the city,he said.

# Order on batch-wise drug certificates opposed

### Wholesale drug distributors oppose the state government order to obtain batch-wise certificate of analysis

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**

A recent government order mandating pharmaceutical wholesalers to obtain batch-wise Certificates of Analysis (CoA) for every drug purchase from manufacturers drew strong objections from pharmaceutical distributors in Karnataka. A CoA is an official quality document that confirms a specific drug batch was laboratory-tested and met required safety, purity and specification standards before release or sale.

In the government order, Food Safety and Drug Administration (FDA) directed that wholesalers must obtain a CoA for every batch of medicines procured, as part of efforts to strengthen quality control and regulatory oversight in the pharmaceutical supply chain.

The order said the decision was taken following maternal deaths in the state last year and the cough syrup fiasco in Madhya Pradesh. However, in a representation submitted by Karnataka Pharma Retailers and Distributors Organization (KPRDO) to the department, pharmacists argued that the directive is impractical and

could disrupt medicine supplies. They demanded withdrawal of the order. At the outset, while procurement of CoA for all purchases may appear theoretically feasible, its practical implementation poses significant challenges.

We request clarification on whether any comprehensive study or data analysis was conducted to assess the magnitude of this requirement. Wholesalers handle thousands of purchase transactions involving multiple batches on a continuous basis. Collecting, verifying and maintaining batch-wise CoAs for every such transaction is an enormous operational burden, said C Jayaram, President, KRDO.

KRDO warned that implementing the requirement only here could disrupt the supply chain, stating that Karnataka manufactures only a fraction of the drugs consumed within the state, with a substantial portion sourced from other states. If CoA is implemented only in Karnataka, how can medicines be purchased from pharmaceutical companies located in different states, it asked.

Jayaram suggested that, if implemented, such a compliance mechanism should be rolled out uniformly at the national level through a centralised digital portal where manufacturers upload batch-wise CoA details for access by wholesalers and regulators.

# State's capital spends lags at 46% as revenue outgo surges

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**

With Chief Minister Siddaramiah set to present his 17th budget on March 6, the state's spending pattern in the current fiscal year points to a widening gap between capital and revenue expenditure.

The 2025-26 budget projected total revenue and capital expenditure, excluding debt servicing, at over Rs 3.8 lakh crore.

As of Jan 2026, the government spent nearly Rs 2.5 lakh crore, about 65 percent of the estimated outlay.

However, capital expenditure has lagged significantly. Of the Rs 71,336 crore allocated for capital works, only 46 percent, Rs 32,847 crore has been utilised so far. In contrast, of the Rs 3.1 lakh crore earmarked for revenue expenditure, which includes salaries, subsidies and interest

The capital spend which is the yardstick to measure the development, the present one is a setback for the government.

payments, around 69 percent has already been spent.

The 46 percent capex is for the original outlay made in the budget in March 2025. In the interim, the government revised the outlay for capital expenditure to Rs 83,000 crore, before revising it downward to around Rs 72,000 crore. Chief Minister's Economic Advisor Basavaraj Rayareddi said, the government is working to step up spending during the rest of the fiscal.

Efforts are on to fulfil the expenditure commitment proposed in the budget.

There are practical challenges considering revenue slowdown driven by ill-timed GST rate rationalisation and choked fund flow from the Centre.

We will maximise the spending before the end of the current fiscal.An analysis of the numbers shows that of the Rs 2.5 lakh crore spent till January, 86.8 pecent, nearly Rs 2.2 lakh crore, has gone towards revenue expenditure.

The skew has triggered concerns over a possible year-end rush to utilise funds, which often raises questions about the quality of expenditure and pace of project implementation.

## HC quashes land acquisition within 18 days

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**

The High Court has quashed the acquisition of 36 guntas of land at Devarabeesanahalli village in Bengaluru South taluk by the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) in favour of New Delhi-based Royal Fragrances Private Limited.

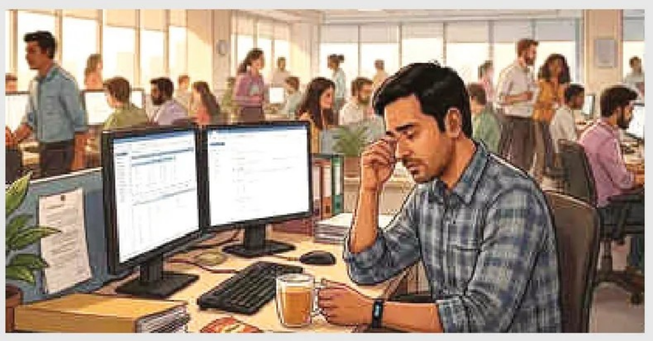
It was critical of the conduct of state authorities, terming the process a colourable exercise of power. A division bench comprising Justices DK Singh and Tara Vitasta Ganju observed that the acquisition was mala fide, arbitrary and in clear violation of mandatory procedures.

The Court noted that the petitioner company's application itself was incomplete and ought to have been rejected at the threshold.

Instead, the land acquisition was processed with unusual speed.

The acquisition was a daylight dacoity on the lands of poor farmers by state authorities in favour of land sharks," the bench remarked, underscoring that no person can be deprived of property except through due process of law and strictly for a public purpose. The court set aside the earlier order of a single judge that had allowed the company's writ petition.

Royal Fragrances had challenged the state government's March 18, 2009 decision and a May 23, 2009 direction to KIADB to denotify the 36 guntas of land.



## AI fears, tough market push up presenteeism

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**

Seized by fears of Artificial Intelligence-triggered job losses and a rough job market, working professionals are embracing presenteeism. They're showing up at work every single day despite challenges like exhaustion, anxiety, and depression. After a grind of daily stand-ups and odd-hour client calls for months and years, employees become a case study for mental health professionals.

These silent struggles drag on. Until burnout explodes or sickness manifests physically. There has been a rise in presenteeism as many employees continue to function outwardly while struggling internally, often masking their symptoms to meet certain expectations. This pattern is common in high-pressure, performance-driven environments where productivity is valued more than well-being, leading individuals to push through distress instead of pausing and seeking help, said Dr Darshan Yallapa Jotibannad, Consultant Psychiatrist, Sparsh Hospital, Infantry Road.

Neha Cadabam, senior psychologist and executive director at Cadabams Hospitals, broke it down.

The presentation depends on the job. For roles needing creative thinking or strategy, mental health issues definitely take a toll. If it is a monotonous task, it gets done mindlessly. Quality might drop, coffee breaks might increase, or a person might sit in front of a computer without truly investing hours.

Dr BG Girishchandra, Medical Director and Senior Psychiatrist, Maarga Mind Care, said, since there is no visible physical abnormality, mentally ill persons come across as 'okay' and others assume they are functioning normally. But their overall functioning deteriorates, their communication skills, concentration, ability to interact, and judgment get influenced by their state of mind. A person with depression, anxiety or other illnesses has a reduced capacity. Presenteeism is not new, but workplaces have evolved sensitive managers, company-sponsored counselling, and even dedicated mental health leave in some organisations. Yet, according to clinicians, employees still baulk at claiming it. If an employee takes a mental health day off and returns the next day.

## Be kind to stray dogs, feed them: Sudha Murty

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**

Philanthropist and Rajya Sabha MP Sudha Murty has appealed to the public to show compassion towards animals, especially street dogs, and encouraged people to feed them regularly.

As part of a podcast hosted by Bengaluru police, Murty spoke about her Golden Retriever, Gopi, and emphasised the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the belief that the world is one family. Not just humans, birds, animals and

plants make a family. Please remember that among animals, the dog is very close to human beings. Dogs require love more than food. They understand you.

When you are angry, happy, they understand, she pointed out. Narrating an incident involving her pet Gopi, whom she affectionately calls her grandson, Sudha Murty said, one day, I was walking on the road, and Gopi, who was coming with someone else on the other side, saw me. Suddenly, he crossed the road and ran towards me. I panicked, thinking a speeding vehicle could hit him. But for Gopi, it was pure love.

Highlighting the emotional bond between humans and animals, she said it is beneficial for children to grow up around pets. However, acknowledging that not everyone can keep a dog at home, she urged people to care for strays in their neighbourhoods. When you cook rice, please add one cup in their name; when you make roti or chapati, make one extra for them.

# Son kills family over sister's inter-caste marriage

**BENGALURU**

The Tilaknagar police were grappling with a baffling case, a family of three had gone missing. H Bheemara, his wife J Jayalakshmi and their daughter Amrita. Despite intensive searches, there was no trace of them.

The person reporting the disappearance, 27-year-old BJ Akshay, appeared deeply worried, lamenting the police's inability to locate his family. Police Inspector Vishwanath K was formulating the next steps when a sudden ringtone pierced the station. It came

from Akshay's trouser pocket.

The color drained from his face. Sir, I gave the ring to his sister's mobile, and it's ringing now, said a constable. This startling moment shifted the investigation. Suspecting foul play, police searched Akshay and found three SIM cards, belonging to the supposedly missing family.

Joint Commissioner of Police-East, Ramesh Banoth, explained, Tilaknagar police sensed something was off from the beginning. Akshay made contradictory statements and tried to mislead us on several points. We had been dialing the family's numbers randomly, all switched off.

But on January 30, while Akshay stepped out for tea, he switched on his sister's phone to create the illusion they were in Bengaluru. What seemed like a standard missing-person case quickly turned horrifying.

Investigators revealed that Bheemaraj had sold a property in Harappanahalli, Davanagere, for Rs 1.2 crore. Akshay had spent a portion of the proceeds without Bheemaraj's knowledge.

The crime unfolded over several days. On January 26, Akshay killed his mother in the afternoon, hiding her body in a bedroom. In the evening, he murdered his sister, and that night, he killed his father. He covered the bodies with a bedsheet and traveled to Bengaluru the next morning, leaving his mobile at home while carrying his family's phones.

# HM launches 3rd edition of Police Run

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara flagged off the 3rd edition of the 'Police Run' marathon in front of the Vidhana Soudha on Sunday. More than 12,000 people participated enthusiastically in the marathon. It was special as more than 3,000 police officers participated. This time the marathon was organized under the motto of creating awareness among the people about drug-free Karnataka and prevention of cyber crimes. The marathon was organized in 5 kilometer and 10 kilometer categories.

DG & IGP Dr. Salim, City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh and many senior police officers participated in the race. Our metro was started from the morning for the convenience of the public in the backdrop of the marathon. Since the metro service started from 5 am, it was easy for thousands of people to reach Vidhana Soudha.

Speaking to the media after the marathon, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara clarified, more than 150 Kannadigas, including students, are stranded in Dubai due to the war situation between Iran and Israel.

UNSAFE ROAD CROSSINGS

# *BLACK & WHITE STRIPS FADE AT CROSSWALKS*

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**

Where do we cross, is a question pedestrian across the city are asking with growing frustration. As new roads and Metro lines take shape, zebra crossings seem to be vanishing. In several busy junctions, the stripes are worn out, encroached upon or missing altogether.

In some spots, patchwork repairs had buried the markings; elsewhere, newly asphalted roads were never repainted. The result: pedestrians are left guessing and often sprinting through moving traffic.The absence of zebra crossings isn't just a pedestrian problem, it puts motorists in a bind too. Bengaluru traf-

fic police mandate that vehicles stop behind the white line before a zebra crossing.

Violations invite fines. However, many motorists say the stop lines and stripes are faded or barely visible, especially after dark, leaving them unsure where to halt.

Banashankari is among the busiest junctions in the city, where commuters have to frequently switch between Metro and buses. College students and office-goers heading towards central Bengaluru, Uttarahalli, and Outer Ring Road pass through this point daily.

After recent asphalting, zebra crossings are largely absent, leaving pedestrians confused about where to cross the road from. At the junction where Bannerghatta Road meets Outer Ring Road, traffic pours in from three directions. Ongoing Namma Metro work has further worsened the congestion. Many describe negotiating this signal as a big task, as speeding two-wheelers and buses pose a clear and present danger to children and elderly pedestrians. Some commuters say it takes more than five minutes to cross this less-than-10-metre stretch.

Even though a skywalk exists here, many elderly people and school students continue to cross the road at undesignated points. With heavy vehicular movement and cars speeding towards Vidhana Soudha and Palace Grounds, crossing the road poses a huge challenge. A traffic policeman said letters were written to the authorities, but drew no response, adding that traffic police officers often step in to help children and the elderly cross.

At this prime junction with heavy vehicle movement, zebra crossings are hardly visible. Most of the washed-out portion is on the stretch next to the LIC building. Pedestrians attempting to cross, or motorists trying to take U-turns here, often get caught by surveillance cameras due to unclear markings. On Residency Road, near Samsung Opera House, large crowds accessing Brigade Road and Church Street use this junction.

## B'luru pvt bus operators seek more time to comply with safety norms

**BENGALURU**

Private bus operators in Bengaluru have requested the Transport department for an extension of the February 28 deadline for compliance of safety measures for both regular and the sleeper buses.

About two weeks ago, the Transport department, had set the deadline in light of a series of fatal accidents, involving private sleeper buses.

The directive called for the removal of the partition door behind the driver in all sleeper buses, installation of fire extinguishers of at least 10 kg in all sleeper buses, and display of a design layout drawing clearly indicating emergency exists, the location of fire extinguishers and roof hatches, in a place easily visible and readable to passengers in all buses, among other safety measures.

However, the tight deadline has led to long queues at bodybuilding workshops in the city, bus operators told DH. "One of the things pointed out in the directive is the removal of luggage carriers. This is something that is taking time, as most of the older buses have it as it was allowed back to them.

Now that all operators are trying to remove them, the workshops are all backed up. They are only accepting two buses from each operator per day," said Ayush Jain, proprietor, Sugama tourists.

QUICK READ

## Cardiologist Found Dead by Suicide in Mandya Hostel Room

**Kasaragod**

The body of Dr. Sukhdev, aged 54 and a resident of Mysuru, was recovered in a hanged state from a residential hostel in Mandya, confirming an apparent case of suicide.

A specialist in cardio-vision (cardiology), Dr. Sukhdev had been providing medical services in Kanhangad for the past 15 years, working across multiple scanning centres in the locality.

He leaves behind a daughter currently pursuing her MBBS studies in Sullia and a son who is a student in Class 6.

Authorities have initiated necessary procedures following the discovery, though no further details on the circumstances leading to the incident have been released.

## Kaup Driver Vanishes with Car After Heading for Hire Duty

**Udupi**

A disappearance case has been registered at Kaup police station involving Manikanta (36), a resident of Mallaru, who went missing along with the car he was driving while on a paid assignment to Mangaluru.

According to details provided to police, Manikanta departed on February 24 after receiving a call from a person named Zakir in Mallaru village, who requested his services for a trip to Mangaluru. He set out in his elder sister's Glanza car for the journey.

The following day, when his wife Pavitra Shetty attempted to contact him, his phone was found switched off. She then reached out to Zakir's brother-in-law Ziauddin to inquire about Manikanta's whereabouts. Ziauddin informed her that Zakir had not returned home either. Family members subsequently conducted searches in the Ucchila and Padubidri areas, hoping to locate Manikanta or the vehicle, but no trace emerged from any of those efforts.

Kaup police have taken up the investigation and are actively pursuing leads to trace the missing driver and the car.

## Woman Dies After Drowning in River During Trek

**Kundapura**

A trekking outing turned fatal on Sunday, March 1, when a woman lost her life after slipping into a river near Bhagimane in the Hosangadi area of Kundapura taluk.

The deceased has been identified as Shubhashree Karanth (53), proprietor of a medical shop in Kundapura town.

According to initial accounts, Shubhashree was part of a group of 8–10 people from Kundapura who had set out for a trek towards Metkal Gudda hill in the Hosangadi region. Her body was recovered and shifted to the government hospital in Kundapura for post-mortem and further formalities. Amasebailu police officials reached the spot, conducted an on-site inspection, and gathered preliminary information from those present.

# 'Bolpu' Selects 11 Start-Ups; MP Aims to Build M'luru as Innovation Hub

**MANGALURU**

The 'Bolpu – Avakasha Navodaya' initiative, launched by Dakshina Kannada MP Capt. Brijesh Chowta to nurture entrepreneurship in coastal Karnataka, has shortlisted 11 start-up ideas after receiving an overwhelming response from innovators across the region.

More than 850 proposals were submitted before the deadline. Following a three-stage screening process, 11 diverse and innovative concepts were chosen. Capt. Chowta held an interaction with the selected entrepreneurs at Yeyyadi on Saturday.

He said the core objective of the initiative is to create at least 50 entrepreneurial success stories in the next five years and position Mangaluru as a leading start-up destination. Referring to the 11th anniversary of the Centre's Startup India programme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he termed the selection of 11 ideas a "moment of pride".

The chosen projects range from blockchain solutions and dairy beverages to cultural tourism, biotech innovations, AI-based healthcare, hydroponics, drone applications and chemical-free dairy ventures. Capt. Chowta also said he hopes at least half of the ventures supported under 'Bolpu' will be led by women entrepreneurs.

The initiative will provide structured mentorship and expert guidance to ensure the selected ideas are developed into sustainable enterprises in the coming years.

# Dakshina Kannada a 'Sea of Opportunities', Says MP at SC/ST Youth Entrepreneurship Conclave

**MANGALURU**

Dakshina Kannada is a "sea of opportunities" with strong entrepreneurial potential, and the district can emerge as a national model in Dalit entrepreneurship, Dakshina Kannada MP Capt.Brijesh Chowta said on Saturday.

He was addressing "Prerana 2026", an SC/ST Youth Entrepreneurship Conclave held in the city.

The MP said sustained efforts would be made to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST youth and to create a supportive ecosystem for aspiring entrepreneurs. The conclave was organised under his guidance by the SC/ST Study and Development Trust in association with Bolpu, Mangaluru.

Inaugurating the event, Mangalore University Vice-Chancellor Prof. P.L. Dharma urged youth not to wait for government jobs but to explore opportunities for economic self-reliance through enterprise.

C.G. Srinivasan, working president of the Dalit Entrepreneurs' Association and a resource person at the event, said that SC/ST entrepreneurs are eligible for up to 75 per cent subsidy to acquire land for industrial units. He claimed that around 6,000 Dalits have become crorepatis by starting businesses, while another 6,000 have turned entrepreneurs with loans at four per cent interest.

SDM Educational Institutions CEO Puran Verma said entrepreneurship is key to participating in the country's rapid development. Vadiraaj of Samarasya, Bengaluru, observed that self-motivation is the first step towards enterprise.

MLA Vedavyas Kamath said that training, loans and subsidies are available for those willing to start businesses and urged youth to make use of such support.

SC/ST Study and Development Trust president Mohanangayya Swami delivered the introductory remarks. BJP district SC Morcha president Shivaprasad Kokkada welcomed the gathering, and Mangaluru City Corporation member Bharat Kumar proposed the vote of thanks. The programme was compered by Disha T. Shetty.

# Thousands Pray for Peace in Gulf at Mangaluru Bible Convention

**MANGALURU**

Prayers for peace in the conflict-hit Gulf countries marked the third day of the 'Mega Bible Convention 2026' at Holy Cross Church grounds in Cordel, Kulshekar, on Saturday.

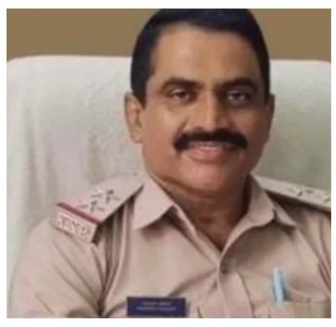
The four-day spiritual gathering, organised by the Mangalore Diocesan Charismatic Service Communion in association with the Diocesan Biblical Commission, drew a large congregation of the faithful. The theme for Day 3 was "Wisdom and Reception: The God Who Guides and Is Received", with special prayers offered for priests and religious leaders.

The evening began with the recitation of the Holy Rosary, followed by praise and worship led by preacher Blossom Rego and her team. The highlight was the Holy Eucharistic celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. Andrew Leo D'Souza, Parish Priest of Bondel Church.

In his homily ahead of Transfiguration Sunday, Fr. Andrew urged the faithful to be transformed by the Word of God and to listen attentively to the voice of Christ. Special intercessions were offered during the Mass for global peace and harmony, particularly in the Gulf region affected by unrest.

Several priests from across the Diocese of Mangalore concelebrated the Mass. The liturgy was supported by the Angelore Church Choir under MelwynPeris.

The convention also featured biblical reflections by Rev. Dr. Leo Lasrado and Rev. Dr.Jencil Alva, who spoke on themes from the Old and New Testaments, respectively. The day concluded with Eucharistic Adoration led by Rev. Fr. Harry D'Souza.



## Police Sub-Inspector Collapses, Dies During Anti-Drug Marathon in Udupi

**UDUPI**

A 58-year-old Sub-Inspector attached to the Kundapura Rural Police Station died after collapsing during a police-organised marathon in Udupi on Saturday. Nasir Hussain, a 2010-batch officer, was participating in the run held under the theme "Our Police, Our Pride" to promote a 'Drug-Free Karnataka' campaign. He reportedly collapsed while running near the Taluk Panchayat office in the town. He was shifted to TMA Pai Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. Police officials suspect a massive heart attack. Originally from Chikkamagaluru district, Hussain had recently been transferred to the Kundapura Rural Police Station following a serious accident reported in the Shettikatte area. Described by colleagues as a committed and disciplined officer, he is survived by his wife and two children. Senior officials visited the hospital and paid their respects. His sudden demise has left the district police department in shock.

# Ramakrishna Mission Leads March Clean-Up Under Swacch Mangaluru Abhiyan

**MANGALURU**

The March edition of the Ramakrishna Mission–Swacch Mangaluru Abhiyan cleanliness drive was flagged off in the city with renewed emphasis on civic responsibility and environmental awareness.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr.Manjaiah Shetty, Senior Health Officer of the Mangaluru City Corporation, and Pranjal Ghate, an economist with the Government of Ontario, Canada. Capt. Ganesh Karnik, Indian Army veteran, and Swacch Mangaluru Coordinator Ranjan Bellarpady were also present and lauded the volunteers.

As part of the Shramadan, senior volunteers undertook a clean-up at the parking area of Kadri Manjunath Temple. Waste was cleared, unauthorised barricades and boards were removed, and awareness was created among parking staff to ensure proper use of dustbins by visitors.

Simultaneously, faculty members and students from the Nitte Institute of Physiotherapy conducted an intensive cleaning drive along the Kadri Temple main road, removing accumulated garbage, non-recyclable plastic and unauthorised banners.

In a special initiative, volunteers also collected discarded photo frames and idols of Hindu deities from Kadri Circle, ensuring respectful handling and safe disposal through a dedicated campaign.

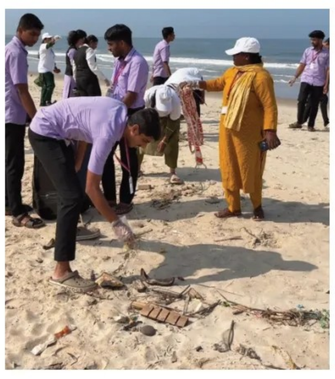
The monthly drive is organised in association with Swacch Mangaluru Prathishtana, with support from Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation as part of their environmental social responsibility initiatives. Citizens have been invited to join the movement.

# Milagres College Students Clean 2-km Stretch of Tannirbhavi Beach

**MANGALURU**

In a bid to promote environmental awareness and civic responsibility, Milagres College, Mangaluru, organised a large-scale cleanliness drive at Tannirbhavi Beach on February 27.

Five staff members and 85 students participated in the initiative, cleaning nearly two kilometres of the shoreline. Volunteers collected plastic waste, glass bottles and other litter scattered along the beach. By the end of the drive, around 28 bags of waste had been gathered, leaving the stretch largely plastic-free.



The programme was conducted with support from the Surathkal Zone of the Mangaluru City Corporation. Health Officer Chetan, along with eight sanitation workers, guided the students and stressed that maintaining cleanliness is the responsibility of every citizen. He also highlighted the need for proper segregation of dry and wet waste to ensure scientific disposal.

The drive was supervised by Outreach Coordinator B. Prathibha D'Souza, along with faculty members Priya, Roshan Coelho and Clyde D'Souza, who ensured proper segregation and transportation of the collected waste.

# Indian Navy Commissions Warship Named After Karwar Island

**KARWAR**

The Indian Navy has strengthened its operational reach with the official commissioning of its latest frontline vessel, INS Anjadip, on Friday. The warship draws its name from the historic Anjadip island, a prominent mid-sea feature in the Arabian Sea off the Karwar coast.

Anjadip island carries significant historical weight for the nation. It was once visited by the explorer Vasco da Gama and later came under prolonged Portuguese colonial control spanning several decades.

In a decisive move during December 1961, the Indian Navy launched an 18-hour military operation to liberate the island from Portuguese forces, bringing it under Indian sovereignty at the same time as Goa was freed.

That liberation campaign came at a heavy price: seven Indian Navy personnel laid down their lives while securing control of Anjadip. The new warship has been christened INS Anjadip to pay enduring tribute to those fallen sailors and to commemorate the island's role in India's post-independence territorial consolidation.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi

formally commissioned the vessel during a ceremony held in Chennai.

Built entirely at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited in Kolkata, INS Anjadip has been purpose-designed to excel in coastal defence missions and to protect vital maritime corridors across the Arabian Sea.

The ship measures 77 metres in length and forms the third unit in a planned series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) under the ongoing project. Widely recognised by its nickname 'Dolphin Hunter,' it is optimised for operations in near-shore and shallow maritime zones, where it can effectively locate and neutralise hostile submarines.

INS Anjadip incorporates advanced indigenous systems, including a modern anti-submarine warfare (ASW) weapon suite and sensor package developed within the country to enhance its underwater threat detection and engagement capabilities.

# Author Calls for Truth-Based Dialogue at Mangaluru Literary Event

**MANGALURU**

A literary event in Mangaluru on Sunday saw the release of M.G. Hegde's book "Bharat Muslim Rashtravaguvudee?" along with a presentation on his novel "Gandhimaneya Avalakki Sara".

The book was released by former Minister B. Ramanath Rai, who criticised the spread of fake news, stating that it creates unnecessary panic and mistrust in society. He said misinformation damages social harmony and must be countered with verified data and informed discussion.

Former Minister Jayaprakash Hegde observed that literature plays a vital role in guiding society and raising critical questions relevant to the times.

Reviewing the works, A.K. Kukkila discussed the central argument of the new book, while Dr.Prabhakar Neermarga said the novel presents a vivid account of rural Indian life and culture.

Author M.G. Hegde said he welcomes debate backed by official data and stressed that widening divides between communities could be dangerous. He urged society to uphold truth and responsible dialogue to safeguard harmony.

# Power Supply to Ennnehole Lift Irrigation Scheme Cut, Sparks Outrage

**KARKALA**

The suspension of power supply to the Karkala–Ajekar Ennnehole Lift Irrigation Scheme has triggered sharp criticism, with the move being termed anti-farmer and ill-timed.

Critics alleged that such a "people-opposed decision" could only be taken when a government has "lost direction and sensitivity." The scheme, established with the objective of providing irrigation support and ensuring farmer welfare, has reportedly had its electricity connection disconnected citing pending dues of over ₹2 crore.

With summer setting in and water scarcity expected to intensify compared to previous years, the disconnection is likely to severely impact farmers dependent on the project for irrigation, it was pointed out.

It was further alleged that the functioning of the Energy Department has deteriorated since the Congress government assumed office. Even three days after MESCOM officials reportedly removed the fuse and disconnected power to the scheme, the government has remained silent, critics said, strongly condemning the action.

# MYSORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

In Mysore... My Home

## E-Auction Notification of Corner, Intermediate, Premium Sites in prominent locations Developed by Mysore Development Authority
## No.MDA/E-AN/02/2025-26 / 27.02.2026

**1) E-Auction Commencement Date: 11.03.2026 after 6.00 PM Indian Standard Time 2) Last date for expressing interest to participate in the e-auction for serial numbers 1 to 50 : 23.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM Indian Standard Time And the date of commencement of direct bidding for e-auction is 26.03.2026 at 11.00 AM Indian Standard Time and the date of Closing direct bidding is 27.03.2026 upto 4:00 PM Indian Standard Time (Delta Time 5:00 minutes) 3) Last date for expressing interest to participate in the e-auction for serial numbers 51 to 100 : 23.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM Indian Standard Time And the date of commencement of direct bidding for e-auction is 30.03.2026 at 11.00 AM Indian Standard Time and the date of Closing direct bidding is 01.04.2026 upto 4:00 PM Indian Standard Time (Delta Time 5:00 minutes) 4) Last date for expressing interest to participate in the e-auction for serial numbers 101 to 150 : 23.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM Indian Standard Time And the date of commencement of direct bidding for e-auction is 02.04.2026 at 11.00 AM Indian Standard Time and the date of Closing direct bidding is 04.04.2026 upto 4:00 PM Indian Standard Time (Delta Time 5:00 minutes). 5) Last date for expressing interest to participate in the e-auction for serial numbers 151 to 200 : 23.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM Indian Standard Time And the date of commencement of direct bidding for e-auction is 06.04.2026 at 11.00 AM Indian Standard Time and the date of Closing direct bidding is 07.04.2026 upto 4:00 PM Indian Standard Time (Delta Time 5:00 minutes).**

| Sl. No. | Layout Name | Site No. | Inter./ Corner | Road Facing/ In Mtr. | Measurement (In mtrs) | | Area in Sq mtrs | Value of Sq. mtrs | Site Value (Rs. In Lakhs) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | N-S | E-W | | | |
| **Corner and Intermediate sites** | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Nachanahalli-Kuppalur 3rd Stage 'D' Block | 99 | Corner | West 9.00 | 13.00 | 18.00 | 234.00 | 79256.00 | 185.46 |
| 2 | JP Nagara 1st Stage 'F' Block | 72 | Corner | E-N 9.00 | 24.00 | (18.00+19.00)/2 | 444.00 | 79256.00 | 351.90 |
| 3 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 754 | Corner | 12-9 E-N | 11.20 | 18.00 | 201.06 | 64986.00 | 131.02 |
| 4 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1025/B | Intermediate | East 9.00 | 6.00 | 9.00 | 54.00 | 58003.00 | 31.32 |
| 5 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1050/B | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 6.00 | 9.00 | 54.00 | 58003.00 | 31.32 |
| 6 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1229 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 58003.00 | 62.64 |
| 7 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1615 | Corner | 18-9 N-E | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 64986.00 | 70.18 |
| 8 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1616 | Corner | 9.00 E-S | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 64986.00 | 70.18 |
| 9 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1631 | Corner | 12-9 E-N | 12.00 | 8.50 | 102.00 | 64986.00 | 66.29 |
| 10 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1631/F | Corner | 9.00 N-W | 12.00 | (13.00+14.60)/2 | 165.60 | 64986.00 | 107.62 |
| 11 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1632 | Corner | 12-9 E-S | 12.00 | 8.50 | 102.00 | 64986.00 | 66.29 |
| 12 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1632/A | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 58003.00 | 62.64 |
| 13 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1632/F | Corner | 9.00 W-S | 12.00 | (11.00+13.00)/2 | 144.00 | 64986.00 | 93.58 |
| 14 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1638/A | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 9.00 | 6.00 | 54.00 | 58003.00 | 31.32 |
| 15 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1638/C | Corner | 9.00 N-W | 9.00 | (9.50+7.80)/2 | 77.85 | 64986.00 | 50.59 |
| 16 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1644 | Corner | 12-9 E-N | 9.00 | (5.40+6.00)/2 | 51.30 | 64986.00 | 33.34 |
| 17 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1645 | Corner | 12-9 E-S | 9.00 | 5.40 | 48.60 | 64986.00 | 31.58 |
| 18 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1651/D | Corner | 9.00 W-S | 9.00 | (7.80+6.00)/2 | 62.10 | 64986.00 | 40.36 |
| 19 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1660 | Corner | 9.00 W-S | (8.50+8.20)/2 | 12.00 | 100.20 | 64986.00 | 65.12 |
| 20 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1660/A | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 58003.00 | 62.64 |
| 21 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1670 | Corner | 18-12 N-W | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 64986.00 | 70.18 |
| 22 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 1671 | Corner | 18-12 N-E | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 64986.00 | 70.18 |
| 23 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 2929 | Corner | 9-12 N-W | 9.00 | 5.90 | 53.10 | 64986.00 | 34.51 |
| 24 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | E-141/A | Intermediate | North 9.00 | (0+8.98)/2 | 37.00 | 166.13 | 58003.00 | 96.36 |
| 25 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 2930 | Corner | 12.00 S-W | 9.00 | 5.90 | 53.10 | 64986.00 | 34.51 |
| 26 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 2956 | Corner | 12.00 S-E | (5.00+6.20)/2 | 9.00 | 50.40 | 64986.00 | 32.75 |
| 27 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 2957 | Corner | 12-9 S-W | (7.00+6.20)/2 | 9.00 | 59.40 | 64986.00 | 38.60 |
| 28 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 2963 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 6.00 | 9.00 | 54.00 | 58003.00 | 31.32 |
| 29 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 2969 | Corner | 9.00 N-W | 6.00 | 9.00 | 54.00 | 64986.00 | 35.09 |
| 30 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 3098 | Intermediate | South 12.00 | 18.00 | 12.00 | 216.00 | 58003.00 | 125.29 |
| 31 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 4499 | Intermediate | North 24.00 | 24.00 | 15.00 | 360.00 | 58003.00 | 208.81 |
| 32 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 4501 | Corner | 24-12 N-E | 24.00 | (15.50+17.50)/2 | 396.00 | 64986.00 | 257.34 |
| 33 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 4553 | Corner | 12-12 S-E | 12.00 | 11.80 | 141.60 | 64986.00 | 92.02 |
| 34 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 4516 | Corner | 12-12 S-E | 18.00 | (16.00+17.00)/2 | 297.00 | 64986.00 | 193.01 |
| 35 | Dattagalli 3rd Stage | 2944 | Corner | 12-9 N-E | 6.80 | 9.00 | 61.20 | 64986.00 | 39.77 |
| 36 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 1756 | Corner | N-E 9.00 | 24.00 | 16.15 | 387.60 | 86009.00 | 333.37 |
| 37 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 1766 | Corner | N-E 9.00 | 24.00 | (16.50+16.00)/2 | 390.00 | 86009.00 | 335.44 |
| 38 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 2847 | Corner | E-S 9.00 | 12.00 | 10.40 | 124.80 | 86009.00 | 107.34 |
| 39 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 4776 | Corner | 9-12 N-W | 9.00 | (3.90+3.96)/2 | 35.37 | 86009.00 | 30.42 |
| 40 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 6128 | Corner | N-E 9.00 | 24.00 | 12.20 | 292.80 | 86009.00 | 251.83 |
| 41 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 7030 | Corner | N-E 9.00 | 4.60 | 18.00 | 82.80 | 86009.00 | 71.22 |
| 42 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 7281 | Corner | S-E 9.00 | 8.40 | 12.00 | 100.80 | 86009.00 | 86.70 |
| 43 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 7326 | Corner | S-W 9.00 | 8.80 | 12.00 | 105.60 | 86009.00 | 90.83 |
| 44 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9004 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 45 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9005 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 46 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9006 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 47 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9007 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 48 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9008 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 49 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9009 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 50 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9010 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 51 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9011 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 52 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9013 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 53 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9016 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 54 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9028 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 55 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9029 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 56 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9030 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 57 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9031 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 58 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9032 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 59 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9033 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 60 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9034 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 61 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9035 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 62 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9036 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 63 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9037 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 64 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9038 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 65 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9063 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 66 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9064 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 67 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9065 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 68 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9067 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 69 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9068 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 70 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9069 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 71 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9070 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 72 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9071 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 73 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9072 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 74 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9073 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 75 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9074 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 76 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9075 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 77 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9076 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59275.00 | 64.02 |
| 78 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9089 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 18.00 | 12.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 79 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9090 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 18.00 | 12.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 80 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9091 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 18.00 | 12.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 81 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9092 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 18.00 | 12.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 82 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 9093 | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 18.00 | 12.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 83 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11160 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 84 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11161 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 85 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11162 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 86 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11162/B | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 87 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11162/A | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 88 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11165 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 89 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11166 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 90 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11167 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 91 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11168 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 92 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11169 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 93 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11170 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 94 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11171 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 95 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11172 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 96 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11173 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 97 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11174 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 98 | Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase | 11232 | Intermediate | East 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59275.00 | 128.03 |
| 99 | Hebbal 2nd Stage | 60/A | Intermediate | South 8.0 mtr | 10.00 | 5.50 | 55.00 | 64472.00 | 35.46 |
| 100 | Hebbal 2nd Stage | 60/B | Intermediate | South 8.0 mtr | 10.00 | 5.50 | 55.00 | 64472.00 | 35.46 |
| 101 | Hebbal 2nd Stage | 658 | Intermediate | East 9.0 mtr | 6.00 | 9.00 | 54.00 | 64472.00 | 34.81 |
| 102 | Hebbal 2nd Stage | 1017/A | Intermediate | West 7.0 mtr | 6.00 | 9.00 | 54.00 | 64472.00 | 34.81 |
| 103 | Hebbal 2nd Stage | 2598 | Corner | West 9.00 | 6.00 | 9.00 | 54.00 | 64489.00 | 34.82 |
| 104 | Hebbal 1st Stage | 1190/I | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 18.00 | 12.00 | 216.00 | 73539.00 | 158.84 |
| 105 | Hebbal 1st Stage | 1190/H | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 18.00 | 12.00 | 216.00 | 73539.00 | 158.84 |
| 106 | Vijayanagara 2nd Stage | 2784 | Corner | N-W 9.00 | (0.5+11.00)/2 | 18.00 | 103.50 | 99318.00 | 102.79 |
| 107 | Vijayanagara 2nd Stage | 2993 | Corner | South & East 9.00 | 14.00 | (9+12)/2 | 147.00 | 99318.00 | 146.00 |
| 108 | Vijayanagara 2nd Stage | 4039 | Corner | West & South 9.0 & 6.0 | (8+5.50)/2 | 12.00 | 81.00 | 99318.00 | 80.45 |
| 109 | Vijayanagara 2nd Stage | 4245 | Corner | North & East 9.0 & 6.0 | 9.00 | 5.00 | 45.00 | 99318.00 | 44.69 |
| 110 | Vijayanagara 2nd Stage | 4280 | Corner | South & East 9.0 & 6.0 | 9.00 | (4.5+5.0)/2 | 42.75 | 99318.00 | 42.46 |
| 111 | Vijayanagara 2nd Stage | 4321 | Corner | North & East 9.0 & 6.0 | 9.00 | 6.00 | 54.00 | 99318.00 | 53.63 |
| 112 | Vijayanagara 2nd Stage | 4360 | Corner | South & East 9.0 & 6.0 | 9.00 | 7.20 | 64.80 | 99318.00 | 64.36 |
| 113 | Vijayanagara 2nd Stage | 4624 | Corner | North & West 18.0 & 6.0 | 13.00 | (18+16.5)/2 | 224.25 | 99318.00 | 222.72 |
| 114 | Vijayanagara 2nd Stage | 4739 | Corner | South & East 9.0 & 9.0 | 8.50 | 9.00 | 76.50 | 99318.00 | 75.98 |
| 115 | Vijayanagara 2nd Stage | 4774 | Corner | South & West 9.0 & 18.0 | (15+12)/2 | 18.00 | 243.00 | 99318.00 | 241.34 |

Continued....

# Alipur observes mourning after Khamenei death

## Residents gathered holding photos of Ayatollah Khamenei, praying and weeping, following his death

**CHIKKABALLAPURA**

Deep sorrow gripped Alipur village after news spread about the reported assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in an alleged Israeli-American attack.

Members of the Shia Muslim community, who form a large part of the village population, announced three days of mourning to express their grief.

As a mark of respect, shops in the village remained closed and an unannounced bandh was observed peacefully.

Many residents gathered holding photographs of Khamenei and offered prayers.

Some were seen in tears as they remembered him as a spiritual guide and leader. Groups of men dressed in black walked through the village streets in silence, while a few raised slogans expressing anger against Israel and the United States.

Alipur, with a population of around 20,000, has a significant Shia Muslim community. For many residents, Iran holds deep religious importance and is regarded as a sacred land.

Community elders said that Khamenei's religious guidance was followed closely by several families in the village.

Locals also recalled that Ayatollah Khamenei had visited Alipur in 1986, an event that strengthened emotional ties between the village and Iran. That visit is still remembered by senior residents as a historic moment.

Despite the strong emotions, the mourning remained peaceful, with no untoward incidents reported.

Police kept a close watch in the area as a precautionary measure.

Village leaders appealed to people to maintain calm and unity during the mourning period while continuing their daily responsibilities after the three-day observance concludes.

# Rajanna reacts lightly to dinner snub

**Rajanna, not invited to Balakrishna's dinner, dismissed tension, affirming all 138 Congress MLAs remain united without factionalism**

**TUMAKURU**

Former minister K. N. Rajanna responded with humor and calm to questions about not being invited to Magadi MLA Balakrishna's birthday dinner. Speaking to reporters after attending an Iftar gathering in Tumakuru, Rajanna said, "If I had been invited for dinner, I would have gone. If someone calls you for a meal, why wouldn't you go?"

Clarifying that he was not invited to the dinner meeting hosted by H. C. Balakrishna, Rajanna dismissed any political tension surrounding the event. He said that Congress MLAs remain united despite speculation about internal differences. "All 138 Congress MLAs are together. We are one," he said, brushing aside suggestions of factionalism.

When asked about certain MLAs being seen as supporters of D. K. Shivakumar, Rajanna maintained that the party stands united and that such labels should not create divisions. Rajanna also spoke about his recent visit to Delhi, where he met Mallikarjun Kharge. He said he had conveyed concerns about confusion within the Karnataka unit of the Congress. "I told our senior leaders that uncertainty is harming the government's image and the party's respect. This confusion should be cleared," he explained.

Responding to comments that the Congress might struggle in the next election, Rajanna said political wins and losses are part of the democratic process. Out of 224 seats, Congress holds 138, and he expressed confidence that the party remains strong and capable of returning to power.

He concluded by saying discussions within the party are aimed at strengthening the organization and maintaining unity, not creating public disputes.

# Renukacharya Jayanti inspires equality and peace

**CHITRADURGA**

The birth anniversary of Jagadguru Renukacharya was celebrated with devotion and reflection at the Deputy Commissioner's Office Hall in Chitradurga on Sunday. The program was organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Kannada and Culture Department, and the Municipal Council.

District Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority Chairman R. Shivanna Ganjigatte said the path of equality shown by great saints is essential for today's society. "Philosophers like Renukacharya fought against social inequality and spread the message of equality. Their principles continue to guide us like a beacon," he said. He urged people to adopt these ideals in daily life.

Sub-Divisional Officer Kantaraj highlighted the ten principles preached by Renukacharya, including non-violence, truth, compassion, forgiveness, charity, worship of Shiva, and chanting of the Panchakshari mantra. He noted that these teachings promote peace and harmony across the world.


| Sl. No. | Layout Name | Site No. | Inter./ Corner | Road Facing/ In Mtr. | Measurement (In mtrs) N-S | Measurement (In mtrs) E-W | Area in Sq mtrs | Value of Sq. mtrs | Site Value (Rs. In Lakhs) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 116 | Vijayanagara 2nd Stage | 5100 | Corner | South & West 9.0 & 6.0 | 9.00 | (4.50+4.0)/2 | 38.25 | 99318.00 | 37.99 |
| 117 | Vijayanagara 2nd Stage | 5715 | Corner | West & South 9.0 & 9.0 | (8.50+2.00)/2 | 18.40 | 96.60 | 99318.00 | 95.94 |
| 118 | Vijayanagara 2nd Stage | 4795 | Corner | South & West 9.0 & 9.0 | (9.5+8.5)/2 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 99318.00 | 107.26 |
| 119 | Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase | 2014 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 45420.00 | 98.11 |
| 120 | Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase | 2167 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 45420.00 | 98.11 |
| 121 | Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase | 2168 | Intermediate | North 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 45420.00 | 98.11 |
| 122 | Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase | 2280/D | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 45420.00 | 98.11 |
| 123 | Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase | 2280/E | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 45420.00 | 98.11 |
| 124 | Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase | 2280/F | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 45420.00 | 98.11 |
| 125 | Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase | 2280/G | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 45420.00 | 98.11 |
| 126 | Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase | 2280/H | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 45420.00 | 98.11 |
| 127 | Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase | 2280/I | Intermediate | South9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 45420.00 | 98.11 |
| 128 | Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase | 2280/J | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 45420.00 | 98.11 |
| 129 | Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase | 2280/K | Intermediate | South 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 45420.00 | 98.11 |
| 130 | Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase | 2233 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 45420.00 | 98.11 |
| 131 | Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase | 2230 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 45420.00 | 98.11 |
| 132 | Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase | 2231 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 45420.00 | 98.11 |
| 133 | Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda | 01 | Corner | N:9.00 E:9.00 | 9.00 | 11.70 | 105.30 | 59180.00 | 62.32 |
| 134 | Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda | 12 | Corner | S:12.00 E:9.00 | 6.60 | 11.50 | 75.90 | 59180.00 | 44.92 |
| 135 | Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda | 24 | Corner | N:9.00 W:9.00 | 9.50 | 11.70 | 111.15 | 59180.00 | 65.78 |
| 136 | Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda | 79 | Corner | S:12.00 W:9.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 59180.00 | 63.91 |
| 137 | Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda | 90 | Corner | N: 9.00 W:9.00 | 10.00 | 11.00 | 110.00 | 59180.00 | 65.10 |
| 138 | Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda | 100 | Corner | S:12.00 W:12.00 | 12.20 | 18.00 | 219.60 | 59180.00 | 129.96 |
| 139 | Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda | 133 | Corner | N:12.00 E: 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59180.00 | 127.83 |
| 140 | Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda | 144 | Corner | S:12.00 E:9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59180.00 | 127.83 |
| 141 | Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda | 121 | Corner | S:12.00 W:9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59180.00 | 127.83 |
| 142 | Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda | 120 | Corner | S:12.00 E:9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59180.00 | 127.83 |
| 143 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 280 | Corner | S:9.00 W:12.00 | 13.00 | 18.00 | 234.00 | 59180.00 | 138.48 |
| 144 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 300 | Corner | N:12.00 E:9.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 59180.00 | 63.91 |
| 145 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 318 | Corner | N:12.00 W:12.00 | 12.00 | 6.00 | 72.00 | 59180.00 | 42.61 |
| 146 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 338 | Corner | N:12.00 E: 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59180.00 | 63.91 |
| 147 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 363 | Corner | S:9.00 W:12.00 | 12.00 | 13.70 | 164.40 | 59180.00 | 97.29 |
| 148 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 485 | Corner | S:9.00 W:12.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 59180.00 | 63.91 |
| 149 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 653 | Corner | S:9.00 W:9.00 | 13.00 | 12.00 | 156.00 | 59180.00 | 92.32 |
| 150 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 668 | Corner | N:9.00 W:9.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 59180.00 | 63.91 |
| 151 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 863 | Corner | N:9.00 W:12.00 | 18.00 | 12.00 | 216.00 | 59180.00 | 127.83 |
| 152 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 923 | Corner | N:18.00 W:12.00 | 24.00 | 15.00 | 360.00 | 59180.00 | 213.05 |
| 153 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 1313 | Corner | N:9.00 E:9.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 59180.00 | 63.91 |
| 154 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 1314 | Corner | N:9.00 W:12.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59180.00 | 127.83 |
| 155 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 1322 | Corner | N:12.00 W:12.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 59180.00 | 63.91 |
| 156 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 1343 | Corner | N:12.00 W:12.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 59180.00 | 63.91 |
| 157 | Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar | 1415 | Corner | SN:9.00 E:12.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 59180.00 | 127.83 |
| 158 | Lalithadrinagar (South) | 721 | Corner | North: 18.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 59180.00 | 63.91 |
| 159 | Lalithadrinagar (South) | 722 | Corner | North:18.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 59180.00 | 63.91 |
| 160 | Gayathripuram 1st Stage | 388 | Intermediate | West: 9.00 | 9.00 | 14.00 | 126.00 | 64560.00 | 81.35 |
| 161 | Gayathripuram 1st Stage | 373 | Intermediate | East: 9.00 | 12.00 | 15.00 | 180.00 | 64560.00 | 116.21 |
| 162 | Gayathripuram 1st Stage | 345 | Intermediate | West: 9.00 | 10.00 | 12.00 | 120.00 | 64560.00 | 77.47 |
| 163 | Gayathripuram 1st Stage | 341 | Intermediate | West: 9.00 | 10.70 | 12.00 | 128.4 | 64560.00 | 82.90 |
| 164 | Gayathripuram 1st Stage | 314 | Intermediate | West: 9.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 108.00 | 64560.00 | 69.72 |
| 165 | Sathagalli 2nd Stage | 4622 | Corner | 9.00 E-N | (9.00+9.30)/2 | (6.60+6.60)/2 | 60.39 | 37660.00 | 22.74 |
| 166 | Sathagalli 2nd Stage | 4649 | Corner | 9.00 W-N | 9.00 | 6.00 | 54.00 | 37660.00 | 20.34 |
| 167 | Sathagalli 2nd Stage | 4648 | Corner | 9.00 S-W | 9.00 | (6.10+6.30)/2 | 55.80 | 37660.00 | 21.01 |
| 168 | Sathagalli 2nd Stage | 4597 | Corner | 9.00 N-W | 9.20 | 6.10 | 56.12 | 37660.00 | 21.13 |
| 169 | Sathagalli 2nd Stage | 4596 | Corner | 9.00 W-S | 9.00 | (6.15+6.20)/2 | 55.57 | 37660.00 | 20.93 |
| 170 | Sathagalli 2nd Stage | 4545 | Corner | 9.00 N | 9.00 | (6.10+6.15)/2 | 55.12 | 37660.00 | 20.76 |
| 171 | Sathagalli 2nd Stage | 5406 | Corner | 9.00 E-W | 9.00 | (6.00+8.50)/2 | 65.25 | 37660.00 | 24.57 |
| 172 | Sathagalli 2nd Stage | 5405 | Intermediate | 9.00 South | 9.00 | 6.00 | 54.00 | 32280.00 | 17.43 |
| 173 | Sathagalli 2nd Stage | 5404 | Intermediate | 9.00 South | 9.00 | 6.00 | 54.00 | 32280.00 | 17.43 |
| 174 | Sathagalli 2nd Stage | 5403 | Intermediate | 9.00 South | 9.00 | 6.00 | 54.00 | 32280.00 | 17.43 |
| 175 | Sathagalli 2nd Stage | 5402 | Intermediate | 9.00 South | 9.00 | 6.00 | 54.00 | 32280.00 | 17.43 |
| 176 | Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone | 1698 | Intermediate | 9.00 East | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 48643.00 | 175.11 |
| 177 | Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone | 1697 | Intermediate | 9.00 East | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 48643.00 | 175.11 |
| 178 | Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone | 1696 | Intermediate | 9.00 East | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 48643.00 | 175.11 |
| 179 | Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone | 1695 | Intermediate | 9.00 East | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 48643.00 | 175.11 |
| 180 | Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone | 1694 | Intermediate | 9.00 East | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 48643.00 | 175.11 |
| 181 | Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone | 1693 | Intermediate | 9.00 East | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 48643.00 | 175.11 |
| 182 | Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone | 1692 | Intermediate | 9.00 East | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 48643.00 | 175.11 |
| 183 | Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone | 1688 | Intermediate | 9.00 East | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 48643.00 | 175.11 |
| 184 | Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone | 1689 | Intermediate | 9.00 East | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 48643.00 | 175.11 |
| 185 | Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone | 1690 | Intermediate | 9.00 East | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 48643.00 | 175.11 |
| 186 | Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone | 1691 | Intermediate | 9.00 East | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 48643.00 | 175.11 |
| 187 | Vasanth Nagar | 651 | Intermediate | 12.00 E-W | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 37660.00 | 40.67 |
| 188 | Vasanth Nagar | 682 | Intermediate | 12.00 E-W | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 37660.00 | 40.67 |
| 189 | Vasanth Nagar | 725 | Intermediate | West 12.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 37660.00 | 40.67 |
| 190 | Vasanth Nagar | 754 | Intermediate | West 12.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 108.00 | 37660.00 | 40.67 |
| 191 | Vasanth Nagar | 09 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 37660.00 | 81.35 |
| 192 | Vasanth Nagar | 10 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 37660.00 | 81.35 |
| 193 | Vasanth Nagar | 11 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 37660.00 | 81.35 |
| 194 | Vasanth Nagar | 12 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 37660.00 | 81.35 |
| 195 | Vasanth Nagar | 210 | Intermediate | West 9.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 216.00 | 37660.00 | 81.35 |
| 196 | Vasanth Nagar | 1910 | Intermediate | East 24.00 | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 37660.00 | 135.58 |
| 197 | Vasanth Nagar | 1911 | Intermediate | East 24.00 | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 37660.00 | 135.58 |
| 198 | Vasanth Nagar | 1912 | Intermediate | East 24.00 | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 37660.00 | 135.58 |
| 199 | Vasanth Nagar | 1913 | Intermediate | East 24.00 | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 37660.00 | 135.58 |
| 200 | Vasanth Nagar | 1914 | Intermediate | East 24.00 | 15.00 | 24.00 | 360.00 | 37660.00 | 135.58 |
| | | | | | | | | Total (Lakhs) | 18629.43 |

## Terms and Conditions of e-auction

**1)** The Participants of the auction should be a citizen of India. Partnership firm/Limited companies/Trusts registered in Inida may also participate in the e-auction. **2)** E-auction participants need more information they can download the simplified e-auction user guide by logging on to http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov. in available on Citizen Division Home Page. For additional information visit kppp Portal or Contact 080 - 46010000 and 080-68948777 **3)** The Participants should download the Specimen Signature format (Write the Name & Father Name in Kannada & English) and Contact Details format from http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. upload the filled formats. **4)** Those who want to buy the e-auction sites jointly, should also upload the documents jointly in e-auction portal. **5)** Sites will be auctioned on 'as is where is' condition. There is no provision for change of site. **6)** There should be minimum of 2 bidders for the e-auciton Sites. Single bidder will be rejected. **7)** The 5 minutes of delta time shall be extended to the last moment bids of e-auction. For example: If the e-auction Bidding close Time is 16.00 hours, In case any bid submitted in 15.57 hours, the closure time will be extended to another 5 Minutes i.e. 16.02 hours. **8)** EMD payable to participate in e-auction Rs.4.00 Lakhs for sites having the base price Rs.1.00 Crore and Above. Rs.2.00 Lakh for the sites having the base price less than Rs.1.00 Crore and e-Auction processing fees also to be deposited through Debit card/ Credit Card/Net Banking to ICICI bank by e-procurement protal. **9)** The minimum Bid change price is Rs.25,000/- for the sites which is having base price below Rs. 1.00 Crore and Rs.1,00,000/- for the sites which is having base price Rs. 1.00 Crore and above. **10)** The highest bidder should check the site approval status in http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. and shall remit 25% of bid amount from the bidder account only through **RTGS/NEFT (Excluding EMD of Rs. 4,00,000/- or Rs. 2,00,000/-)** before **72 hours** to Account Holder Name: Commissioner MDA Mysore, Bank of Baroda, Account No.89260100004660 (IFSC Code No. BARB0VJMUDA) (Fifth Digit will be Zero). Bidder should submit the 25% amount payment receipt and 2 Passport size photos to Office. If the successful bidder failing to pay the 25% of the bid amount their EMD amount will be forfeited. **11)** Myosre Development Authority has the right to withdraw any auctioned sites at any time. **12)** The auction of said sites will be held according to 1991 Karnataka Development Authorities Act (Disposal of corner and commercial sites) Rule 6(2) the Commissioner Mysore Development Authority, Mysore reserves the right to accept or reject the bid without assigning any reason and prior notice. **13)** The EMD Amount of unsuccessful bidders will be returned to their Bank Account by eproc.karnataka.gov.in of Karnataka after bidding is finalized. **14)** If any difference is found in the Dimension of the sites during the final transfer to the bidder, if the Dimension is less, for less Dimension amount will be refunded. If the Dimension is more, Bidder should has to pay the additional amount for the increased area. If the bidder does not agree, then 25% of the bid amount will be forfeited and the auction will be cancelled. **15)** Bidder should pay the remaining 75% of bid amount from their own Bank account and should submit the receipt copy with Sale Deed request to Office.**16)** The Successful bidder shall pay the balance 75% amount after receiving the Auction Confirmation Letter in 45 days without interest. If who need time extension to pay the 75% amount 18% of interest will be applicable for 90 days and 21% of interest applicable for futher 30 days with the prior permission of the commissioner. **17.** As per Column 194 IA of the Income Tax Act, 1961, In case where the total value of the property auctioned exceeds Rs. 50.00 lakhs, the auction purchaser should be deduct an amount of 1 percent of the total value of the property and liable to pay the same to the Income Tax Department. **18)** In case the longitude and latitude given in the auction announcement is not identified due to manual error, the bidder may confirm the same with the relevant engineers. No refund will be allowed If you request a refund of the amount paid stating that the longitude and latitude are different.

**19) CONTACT FOR LOCATION DETAILS: A)** Zonal office -1 - 1). Nachanahlli - Kuppaluru 3rd Stage, J.P.Nagara Layout - Smt Roopasri, AE., Mobile: 9740029156 B) Zonal Office-2 - Dattagalli 3rd Stage Layout - Sri Rajashekar G. JE., Mobile : 9880929640, **C)** Zonal Office-3 - Vijayanagara 4th Stage Layout - Sri. K.P. Sathishchandra, AE., Mobile No.9480446452 **D)** Zonal Office - 4 - Hebbal 2nd Satage Layout, Vijayanagara 2nd Stage Layout - Smt. Pavithra R. AE., Mobile No.: 8197542740 **E)** Zonal Office-5B - Devanuur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase - Sri K.P. Sathishchandra. AE., Mobile: 9480446452. **F)** Zonal Office - 6 - Santhaveri Gopalagowdanagara, Lalbahadurshatri Nagar, Lalithadri (South) - Sri Rajashekar G. JE., Mobile No.9880929640 **G)** Zonal Office - 8 - Sathagalli 2nd Stage & Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone Layout & Vasanthangar Layout- Smt. Meghana, JE., Mobile No.9480884440 **20)** For information regarding Auction may obtain from website: www.mudamysore.gov.in or contact Ph No. 0821-2421629

**Sd/- Commissioner**

DIPR/DDMYS/02/KSMCA/992/2025-26

## QUICK READ

### Renukacharya ideals guide harmonious society building: Hallad

**Bidar**

The ideals and philosophy of Jagadguru Renukacharya are essential for building a peaceful and progressive society, said C. G. Hallad during the Renukacharya Jayanti Mahotsav held in Bhalki.

The programme was organised by the taluk administration at the Tahsildar's office on Sunday. After inaugurating the event, Hallad said Jagadguru Sri Renukacharya and the Shivasharanas offered deep guidance on the meaning and purpose of human life. He noted that Renukacharya spread the message of victory to humanity and peace through dharma. He urged people to follow these teachings in their daily lives.

### Dharwad teacher suspended after student gold theft

**Dharwad**

Rajashekar Vadathera, a teacher at Vidyaranya School, Dharwad, was suspended for allegedly taking 8 tolas of gold from an SSLC student under the pretext of handing over a question paper. After the student informed his parents, Vadathera reportedly threatened him, causing the teen to attempt suicide by consuming poison. He was hospitalized for treatment. The police initially did not register the complaint, prompting the parents to appeal to the commissioner. Following a K.E. Board meeting on February 27, Vadathera's suspension, effective May 28, and a departmental inquiry were ordered, raising concerns about student safety.

### Teen girl tragically killed by wild elephant

**Madikeri**

Seventeen-year-old Pooja, a First PUC student at St Michael School, was killed in a forest attack in Bettathur village, Madikeri taluk. Returning home from college around 5:30 pm, she was walking from the bus stop when a wild elephant suddenly charged and fatally injured her. Her body is now at Madikeri Government Hospital mortuary. Villagers protested, blaming the forest department for failing to prevent such attacks. They demand urgent measures to avoid future tragedies. The incident has left the community in shock and grief, highlighting the ongoing dangers of human-wildlife conflict in the area.

# India advances nuclear power with indigenous technology

Dr. Mohanty said India is expanding nuclear power with PHWRs, LWRs, and SMRs, prioritizing safety and quality

**KARWAR**

India has achieved complete self-reliance in nuclear power generation by using fully indigenous technology and equipment, said Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy.

He was speaking at Kaiga after inaugurating the first concreting work for Units 5 and 6 of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited project. He said the country has set an ambitious target of generating 100 gigawatts of nuclear power by 2047. Out of this, NPCIL aims to contribute 54 gigawatts.

Dr. Mohanty said India plans to expand nuclear generation through pressurised heavy water reactors, light water reactors and small modular reactors. He stressed that safety and quality remain top priorities in all nuclear projects. The new Kaiga units are 700 MW PHWRs designed with advanced safety features and are considered among the safest in the world. He added that the first of the two new units is expected to begin power generation within about 60 months. The project is being executed using a new strategy with major EPC packages covering nuclear and turbine islands, helping faster coordination and timely completion. At present, four 220 MW units operate at Kaiga with a total capacity of 880 MW. After completion of Units 5 and 6, the total capacity will rise to 2,280 MW. NPCIL Chairman and Managing Director Bhuvan Chandra Pathak and other senior officials were present.

# MP seeks help for stranded tourists

**DAVANAGERE**

**Dr. Mallikarjun urged swift Central government action for tourists' safety, requesting the Indian Embassy in Dubai coordinate with local authorities for their secure, early return**

Davangere Member of Parliament Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun has appealed to the Union Ministry of External Affairs for urgent intervention to rescue 50 Kannadigas stranded in Dubai due to the ongoing conflict in parts of the Middle East.

In a statement, she said the group of tourists from Davangere district had travelled to the United Arab Emirates from Bengaluru on February 23, 2026. Among them, 15 are from Jagalur taluk, while the remaining 35 belong to neighbouring Ballari and Chitradurga districts. Their return flight, scheduled for 9:30 pm on February 28, was cancelled at the last minute, leaving them stranded in Dubai. Reports suggest that several flight services have been disrupted due to the tense war-like situation in the region. Dr. Mallikarjun expressed concern over the safety of the tourists and urged the Central government to act quickly. She requested the Indian Embassy in Dubai to coordinate with local authorities and make arrangements for their safe and early return to India.

The MP said that detailed information about the stranded passengers has already been shared with the concerned authorities. She voiced hope that swift steps would be taken to resolve the issue and bring relief to anxious family members waiting back home.

Responding to her appeal, officials from the Union Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassy have reportedly assured that necessary action will be taken to assist the stranded citizens at the earliest.

*Following the GST hike, superior tobacco prices fell to ₹270–280/kg, sparking protests and auction suspensions in Hunsur and Periyapatna*

# Tobacco prices crash sparks urgent board meeting

**MYSURU**

The Tobacco Board will hold an urgent meeting in Mysuru on Monday, March 2, to address the sharp drop in tobacco prices that has worried farmers across Karnataka. The meeting will bring together MPs and MLAs from key tobacco-growing regions, including Mysuru, Kodagu, Chamarajanagar, Hassan, Mandya, Periyapatna, Hunsur, H. D. Kote, K. R. Nagar, and Arkalgud. Tobacco Board officials, including Chairman Yashwanth Kumar Chidipothu, Executive Director B. Vishwas-ree, and Director (Auctions) B. C. Srinivas, will attend, alongside major cigarette manufacturers and exporters such as ITC. The discussion comes after farmers expressed concerns following the recent GST hike on tobacco from 28% to 40% by the Centre, which contributed to a sudden price collapse.

Prior to the GST increase, superior grade tobacco was fetching around ₹320 per kg, but prices dropped to ₹270–280 per kg in the weeks after the Union Budget. The fall has been linked to reduced procurement by traders and manufacturers, despite earlier commitments to purchase larger quantities.

Protests erupted in Hunsur and Periyapatna, two of Karnataka's main tobacco regions, causing temporary suspension of auctions across multiple platforms. While auctions have resumed, farmers remain anxious, with about 40 million tonnes of tobacco still unsold out of the total 85 million tonnes. Mysuru MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar said MPs from Karnataka and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh requested Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to reconsider the GST hike. At the same time, Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture K. Venkatesh criticized traders for scaling back procurement mid-season despite initially submitting higher indents to the Tobacco Board.

Farmers are hopeful that prices for superior grade tobacco will stabilize above ₹300 per kg and eventually return to pre-GST levels. The Monday meeting is expected to explore measures to protect the livelihood of tobacco growers and restore confidence in the market.

## Yaduveer Wadiyar checks health of activist

**MADIKERI**

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Wadiyar visited the district hospital to inquire about the health of Gautam, a Hindu activist who was attacked in Napoklu. Speaking to reporters, the MP described the incident as serious and called for strict action against the accused.

He praised the police for arresting all four individuals involved in the attack and emphasized that such incidents must not be allowed to recur. Yadhuveer Wadiyar highlighted concerns about repeated communal tensions under the current Congress government, citing similar incidents in Nagamangala and Mandya during Hindu celebrations.

# Women's Spandana program to address local issues

**MANDYA**

State Women's Commission Chairperson Nagalakshmi Chaudhary announced plans to organize a "Women's Spandana" program in Mandya, aimed at addressing the problems faced by women in the region. She made the statement while attending the 41st annual festival of Sri Shaneshwara Swamy Temple in Kachchigere village.

Chaudhary encouraged students to focus on their studies and aim for high positions so that Kachchigere could become a model village for the state. She emphasized that the Women's Commission is committed to taking necessary steps for women's empowerment and providing timely support to resolve their issues.

During the event, local achievers and activists from various fields, including cinema and music, were felicitated for their contributions. The program celebrated talent and encouraged community participation.

Notable attendees included Manjunath, film actor Kiran Raju, Vinay Kumar, television actor Rakesh, singer Gyan Gururaj, priest Prasanna Shankrappa, and local leaders Mahantappa and Ullas.

The upcoming Spandana program is expected to bring government officials and women from the village together, providing a platform to discuss issues, suggest solutions, and strengthen women's participation in local development initiatives.

# Hunsur Waqf board supports minorities with Ranjan aid

**HUNSUR**

In a heartwarming gesture, the Hunsur Mysore District Waqf Board distributed groceries and Ranjan kits to Imams and Mauzans of the taluk at Masjid-e-Ala hall on Dodda Masidi Street. The initiative was conducted alongside former MLA HP Manjunath, who also provided personal financial assistance to the community on the auspicious day of the Ranjan festival.

The items were handed out by HP Manjunath, District Waqf Board President Azizullah Ajju, and member Azgar Pasha Siddique Amjat. Manjunath personally presented cash gifts to the religious leaders and conveyed his wishes for their well-being. Speaking to reporters, he expressed his gratitude for the continuous support and blessings of the Muslim community, calling their love "like a son" and affirming his commitment to support their development initiatives.

Azizullah Ajju praised Manjunath's efforts, stating that he has consistently supported the community in times of hardship and happiness. Ajju also highlighted the Waqf Board's new approach under his leadership.

# New check dam brings farmers hope

**SAKLESHPUR**

Farmers in Alur taluk have received encouraging news with the launch of a new check dam project worth ₹1 crore. The foundation stone was laid for the construction of the dam across Konanakatte Lake in Ajjenahalli village, under the limits of Talur gram panchayat.

The project aims to conserve rainwater that usually flows away during the monsoon. Once completed, it is expected to provide irrigation support to nearly 50 acres of farmland. Local farmers believe this will help them continue cultivation even during the dry summer months.

Speaking at the event, MLA Cement Manju said saving water means saving farmers. He explained that when crops grow well, villages prosper, and when villages prosper, the state moves forward. He described the check dam as more than just a cement structure, calling it a strong foundation for farmers' dreams and future security.

Officials said the project will also help improve the groundwater level in nearby areas. With better water storage, farmers may be able to grow crops in two seasons instead of one. This could increase agricultural productivity and provide financial stability to many families who depend entirely on farming.

Several officials, local leaders and villagers attended the programme. The gathering expressed hope that the work would be completed on time without delays. Villagers shared their happiness over the development initiative and said it would open new opportunities for agriculture in the region.

# 'SCIENTIFIC THINKING MUST GROW IN STUDENTS'

**DHARWAD**

Farmer leader Gangadhar Patil Kulkarni called upon students to develop a scientific attitude in their daily lives, saying that National Science Day should not be limited to just one day of celebration.

He spoke after inaugurating a science exhibition organised at Government High School, Mardagi, as part of National Science Day. The programme was led by Taluk Mrs.

Girijamma Gangadhar Bellary, also known as Moolimani. Addressing students, Kulkarni urged them not to accept anything blindly and to always ask questions. He encouraged them to build curiosity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

"No matter how much science advances, a hungry person still depends on a farmer for food," he said, adding that agriculture remains the backbone of the country. He advised students to take interest in farming and gain knowledge about it.

School principal Vijayalakshmi Arkasali, in her introductory speech, said students should learn about medicinal plants used in daily life. She noted that questions like what, why and how help shape young minds into scientists. Students performed experiments to formally inaugurate the exhibition. Class 9 students presented an environmental song, and Shambhavi Bikkoji spoke about C. V. Raman. The exhibition featured models on environmental protection, solar energy, water conservation, agricultural technology and health care. Visitors appreciated the creativity and effort of the students.

**DRUG-FREE CAMPAIGN**

# *MASSIVE RESPONSE TO POLICE PRIDE RUN*

**MYSURU**

Thousands of people took part in the "Our Police, Our Pride" Run organized jointly by Mysuru City and District Police on Sunday. The event was part of a State-wide initiative aimed at promoting fitness, creating a drug-free society and spreading cyber awareness. District Minister H.C. Mahadevappa flagged off the run at the Mysuru Palace premises in the presence of several dignitaries. MLAs G.T. Deve Gowda and T.S. Srivatsa, along with senior police officials and district authorities, participated in the programme.

The run featured both 5K and 10K categories. Participants in the 5K run began at Kote Anjaneya Swamy Temple near the palace and covered major city roads before returning to the starting point. The 10K runners followed a longer route covering important landmarks including Manasagangothri and Bogadi Road.

In the 5K civilian men's category, Nithin M secured first place, while Vidya topped the civilian women's section. Among police personnel, Vinod won in the men's category and Ms. Bhuvaneshwari finished first among policewomen.

In the 10K event, Purushotham claimed first prize in the civilian men's category and Ms. Ashwini emerged winner among civilian women. Megharaj H K secured the top spot among policemen, while Malashri Jadav led the policewomen's category.

Senior officials including Inspector General M.B. Boralingaiah, Deputy Commissioner Lakshmikant Reddy, City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar and Superintendent Mallikarjun Baladandi were present. The strong turnout reflected public support for the police and the message of healthy living.

## QUICK READ

### TMC protests in Bengal's Hasnabad over 'targetted'

**KOLKATA**

The Trinamool Congress protested in Hasnabad of West Bengal's North 24 Parganas over targetted deletion of names from the final voters' list, police said on Sunday. Trinamool Congress' local leaders and activists burnt tyres on the road and raised slogans against the Election Commission of India (ECI). The protesters also burnt an effigy of Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari. The local Lebukhali Road was blocked due to the protest movement. Traffic was also stopped. Later, the police went there and brought the situation under control.

### CJI Surya Kant offers prayers at Tirumala temple

**TIRUPATI**

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant offered prayers at Sri Venkateswara Temple on Sunday. The Chief Justice, who had reached Tirumala, had darshan in the morning. On his arrival at the temple, he was received by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Chairman B.R. Naidu, Executive Officer Muddada Ravi Chandra, Additional Executive Officer C.H. Venkaiah Chowdhury, and District Superintendent of Police L. Subbaraidu. On this occasion, the priests traditionally welcomed the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court amidst the chanting of Vedic mantras.

### MEA advises foreign in India to contact FRRO for visa help

**NEW DELHI**

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Sunday issued an advisory for foreign nationals in India, asking those affected by disrupted travel plans due to the ongoing developments in the West Asia region to contact the nearest Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for visa extension or regularisation. The advisory said: All foreign nationals in India, who have had to change their travel plans due to the ongoing developments in the West Asia region and need assistance with extension of their visa or to regularize their stay, are requested to contact the nearest Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO). The FRRO concerned will help with necessary formalities.

# MP plans science park at former Union Carbide site

## CM Mohan Yadav proposes memorial, research centre and Science Park in Bhopal

**BHOPAL**

Mohan Yadav said the Madhya Pradesh government plans to develop a Science Park and a national-level research centre at the site of the former Union Carbide factory in Bhopal.

After meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, the Chief Minister said he apprised him of various initiatives being undertaken jointly by the Centre and the state government.

In an official statement, Yadav said a comprehensive plan has been prepared to develop 87 acres of land at the former factory site into a Bhopal Gas Tragedy Memorial, a Science Park, a Convention Centre, a modern laboratory dedicated to national security, and a national research centre focused on development.

Referring to the Bhopal gas tragedy of December 3, 1984, he said the city had witnessed one of the worst industrial disasters in history, in which more than 25,000 people lost their lives over the years. He added that the state government has recently completed the transportation and disposal of hazardous waste stored at the Union Carbide factory premises, marking a significant step toward redevelopment of the site.

The Chief Minister said he sought guidance from the Union Home Minister regarding the creation of a grand memorial on the vacant land, aimed at preserving the memory of the victims while transforming the area into a centre for scientific advancement and public engagement.

Yadav also informed Shah about events organised to commemorate the legacy of Samrat Vikramaditya, whom he described as one of the greatest rulers in history. On the law and order front, he said strong action has been taken against Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in the state, noting that Balaghat district had long been affected by such activities. Discussions were also held on organising the Baiga Mahotsav in the district to promote regional development and tribal welfare. Highlighting healthcare initiatives, Yadav said a statewide vaccination drive to prevent cervical cancer has been launched, under which more than eight lakh girls will receive free vaccines.

# Delhi HC to hear CBI plea in excise policy case

**NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court is scheduled to hear next week a plea filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) challenging a trial court order that discharged AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal, former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and 21 others in the 2022 Delhi excise policy case.

According to the causelist available on the High Court's official website, the matter is listed before a single-judge Bench of Justice Swarnakanta Sharma on March 9. The CBI has filed a criminal revision petition contesting the detailed order passed by the Rouse Avenue Court, which had declined to frame charges against all 23 accused and held that the prosecution failed to establish even a prima facie case warranting trial.

On February 27, Special Judge (PC Act) Jitendra Singh, in an order spanning more than 1,100 paragraphs, concluded that the case presented by the CBI was wholly unable to survive judicial scrutiny and stood discredited in its entirety. After examining extensive records and the depositions of nearly 300 prosecution witnesses, the trial court observed that no material had surfaced to raise even a grave suspicion against the accused.

The court further held that compelling the accused to undergo a full-fledged trial in the absence of legally admissible evidence would amount to a manifest miscarriage of justice and an abuse of the criminal process.

The case relates to the Delhi Excise Policy 2021–22 introduced by the then AAP-led government, which was subsequently scrapped amid allegations of corruption and kickbacks. The CBI alleged that the policy was designed to benefit certain private liquor entities, including the so-called South Group, in exchange for alleged upfront bribes that were purportedly routed for electoral purposes.

## Sasikala floats Amma Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

**CHENNAI**

Former Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa's close aide V. K. Sasikala has launched a new political party titled Amma Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (ADMK), a move widely viewed as a fresh challenge to T. T. V. Dhinakaran's Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) ahead of the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. The announcement was made in Ramanathapuram during a public event marking Jayalalithaa's birth anniversary. Signalling her formal political re-entry, Sasikala unveiled the party's flag bearing portraits of AIADMK founder M. G. Ramachandran, Jayalalithaa and former Chief Minister C. N. Annadurai. The imagery is being interpreted as an effort to firmly root the new outfit within the broader Dravidian political legacy.

Political analysts believe the party's name — closely resembling the original identity of the AIADMK — appears to be a calculated attempt to reconnect with Jayalalithaa's loyal support base and revive the powerful Amma brand in a politically fragmented environment. The abbreviation ADMK is also seen as symbolically significant, evoking familiarity among traditional AIADMK

voters. Sources suggest that Sasikala is preparing to field candidates in more than 20 constituencies, primarily concentrated in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu. These regions are known for the substantial electoral influence of the Mukkulathor community, comprising the Thevar, Kallar and Agamudayar groups. Her strategy is believed to focus on consolidating this key vote bank.

Under Rule 10B of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, a registered but unrecognised party can seek a common election symbol if it contests at least five per cent of the total Assembly seats. In Tamil Nadu's 234-member Assembly, this requires contesting a minimum of 12 constituencies. By planning to field candidates in over 20 seats, Sasikala's party is expected to comfortably meet the eligibility criteria for a common symbol.

## No fresh voters' inclusion application in 99 Assembly seats

**KOLKATA**

As the final voters' list in West Bengal as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision in the state was published, it showed that there has been no fresh voters' inclusion in as many as 99 Assembly constituencies during the entire SIR exercise starting from the beginning of the numeration phase in December last year till the publication of the final voters' list The final voter list was published.

During this phase, there had been no Form-6 application (form for inclusion), as per statistics available from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).

This means that in almost 34 per cent of the total of 294 Assembly constituencies in the state, there has not been a single fresh voters' inclusion application. However, the sources in the CEO's office said that, given that there is still some time remaining for Form-6 applications to be submitted, the picture might be different at a later stage.

Applications for inclusion in the electoral roll can be submitted up to the last date for filing nominations for the upcoming Legislative Assembly election. Since polling dates for the forthcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal are yet to be announced, there is substantial time left from the last date of nomination, and hence voters seeking Form-6 applications have substantial time to submit Form-6 applications, the source said.

It is learnt that of the 99 Assembly constituencies where there has not been a single fresh voters' inclusion application during this period, the maximum has been in the case of the Bangladesh-bordering Nadia district, at 14.

The CEO's officer said that since the notification for the revision exercise was announced, the Election Commission has been regularly conducting awareness drives among voters about the significance of the different forms in the exercise.

But still, it seems some voters have ignored the awareness calls, which is evident from zero voters' inclusion applications in so many constituencies in this phase, the CEO's office insider said.

## CoBRA Officer, Jawan Injured in IED Blast during Anti-Maoist Operation

**RANCHI**

An Assistant Commandant of the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) and a jawan were injured during anti-Maoist operations in the Saranda jungles of West Singhbhum district in Jharkhand on Sunday, police said.

Assistant Commandant Ajay Mallick was hurt in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast while security forces were conducting an intensive search operation in the Marangponga area of the Saranda forest. According to officials, the explosive device had been planted in advance by Maoists. "One Assistant Commandant of CoBRA got injured in an IED blast. The injured officer was evacuated to a safer location. After providing first aid, he was airlifted to Ranchi for better treatment," said Chaibasa Superintendent of Police Amit Renu. Mallick's condition is reported to be stable. Hours after the blast, a CoBRA jawan sustained bullet injuries during a follow-up operation in the same region. "The injured jawan is also being airlifted to Ranchi," the SP added. Security forces have heightened vigil in the dense forest area following the twin incidents and intensified combing operations to track down the Maoists responsible for the attack.

## Priyanka blasts Centre over Wayanad landslide aid

**WAYAND**

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Lok Sabha MP from Wayanad and AICC General Secretary, criticised the Centre for being not very forthcoming in extending financial assistance to survivors of the July 2024 landslides, even as she welcomed the pace and quality of rehabilitation work in the district.

Addressing the media during her visit, the Congress leader said she was very happy to witness the progress on the ground and expressed satisfaction with the standard of housing being constructed for affected families. Looks to me like the quality of at least the house that I have seen is good. Anything that is done for those who have survived such a terrible tragedy will make us all happy. I have no adverse comment, she said.

When asked whether the rehabilitation effort in Wayanad could serve as a model for the rest of the country, she refrained from drawing comparisons. Honestly, I haven't seen others, so I can't say, she remarked, while suggesting that more trees should be planted in the township area to enhance environmental sustainability and resilience. Highlighting the role of various stakeholders in the rebuilding process, Priyanka Gandhi observed that governments typically possess greater financial resources and

faster access to permits and clearances. Obviously, we are all making an effort, she said, adding that the Indian National Congress has committed to constructing 100 houses for survivors. The party recently launched its housing initiative in the presence of Rahul Gandhi. She acknowledged that the party's housing project required time due to the need for statutory permissions and clearances.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, LAVEENA LOBO W/o RONALD LOBO, R/o 3-73/2, Bankeshwara Road, Yedthare, Byndoor, Kundapura, Udupi, Karnataka-576214, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as LAVEENA LOLETTE LOBO.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, VENKAPPA HONNAPPA WADDAR S/o HONNAPPA WADAR, R/o No A-210, Vinyaas Virtue, 1st Main Road, Sharadamba Nagar, Jalahalli, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560013, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VENKATESH VORSE.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **SUHAIL AHAMED** MOHAMMED SALIM, S/o. Abdul Subhan, Resident No.5/1, New 11 C Street, HKP Road, Shivajinagar, Old Korchi Palaya, Bengaluru-560051, have changed my name to **SUHAIL AHMED,** vide affidavit dated: 02.03.2026 before Notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, PANKAJ KUMAR HIMANSHU S/o AJAY KUMAR GUPTA R/o House No-1778/A, 4th Cross Road, 3rd Block, Vishwapriyanagar, Begur, Begur Main Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560068, have changed the name of my minor son SHIVANSH GUPTA aged 8 years and he shall hereafter be known as ABBHINAV ADVIK GUPTA.

**Govt. of Karnataka**
**Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests Cauvery Wildlife Division, Kollegal**

E-Mail: dcfcauverywl@gmail.com Office: 08224-253027

No. A2/BUD/Tender Publish/CR- 35/2025-26 Dated: 21.02.2026

**BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION**

During the year 2025-26 tender has been called through kppp Portal to taken up the Excavation of Elephant Proof Trench in Muggur Wildlife Range of Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary. interested registered contractors can participate in the tender through kppp. Portal (**http://kppp.karnataka. gov.in**) for further details can contact the under signed office in the office hours.

Deputy Conservator of Forests, Cauvery Wildlife Division Kollegal

NO: DIPR: CHANAGARI 750: 2025-26

**'PLEDGE SUPPORT TO IRAN'**

# *'Strong response will be given to Israel from Iran'*

**NEW DELHI**

Maulana Yasoob Abbas, General Secretary of the All India Shia Personal Law Board, expressed shock and grief after reports emerged that Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of Iran, had been killed in joint US Israeli airstrikes.

Maulana Abbas said, "It is very sad news from Iran that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has been killed in a joint Israeli US strike… The All India Shia Personal Law Board has announced three days of mourning. The US and Israel think they have destroyed Iran after this -- it is not true. A strong

response will be given to Israel from Iran."

He urged the community to wear black and said, "Tonight at 8.30 a jalsa will take place, and the effigies of America and Israel will be burnt. I would request people to stand for those people in this difficult time. I urge our nation to support Iran fully."

There is a wave of grief around the world over the martyrdom of Khamenei. After ending Khamenei, America and Israel think they have destroyed Iran, but let me tell you, neither Iran has been destroyed nor has Islam, he added.

The remarks come amid rapidly unfolding developments in the Middle East, where coordinated airstrikes by the US and Israel have targeted Iranian leadership and military infrastructure.

Iranian state media confirmed early Sunday that Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in the joint US Israeli airstrikes, declaring 40 days of national mourning across the country. The airstrikes also killed several of his relatives, including his daughter, grandchild and son in law, according to reports citing Iranian outlets and international news agencies.

Earlier, US President Donald Trump announced on Truth Social that Khamenei had been killed, calling it the single greatest chance for Iranians to reclaim control of their country.

Trump described Khamenei as one of the most evil people in history and framed the strikes as justice for the people of Iran.

QUICK READ

## President Murmu to launch Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana

**NEW DELHI**

In a step towards the economic empowerment of women, President Droupadi Murmu, on Monday, will formally launch the Delhi government's 'Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana' and roll out the scheme for two free LPG cylinders on Holi and Diwali for 15 lakh poor families, an official said on Sunday. A special programme titled 'Sashakt Nari, Samriddh Delhi' will be organised at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium on Monday during which these schemes, along with others will be launched by President Murmu, the official added. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that the programme symbolises the Delhi government's commitment to women's empowerment.

## Gujarat to host SemiConnect as chip projects grow

**GANDHINAGAR**

Gujarat intensified its push to attract investment in semiconductor manufacturing as Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel held a series of one-to-one meetings with domestic and international industry leaders on the sidelines of the SemiConnect Conference-2026 in Gandhinagar. The two-day conference, organised by the state government's Department of Science and Technology under the theme Gujarat – India's Gateway to Silicon, was inaugurated by the Chief Minister at Mahatma Mandir. The event sought to promote strategic collaboration between global chipmakers and Indian industries.

## Puducherry residents hail PM Modi's visit, initiatives

**PUDUCHERRY**

A wave of enthusiasm was witnessed in Puducherry following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on Sunday, during which he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth Rs 2,700 crore, marking one of the largest infrastructure pushes for the Union Territory in recent years. Among attendees, many expressed optimism about the region's growth trajectory and praised the Prime Minister's initiatives. One attendee said, The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Puducherry has created a huge wave of enthusiasm.

# Khamenei's killing immoral, unlawful: Owaisi

### He urged the Indian govt to play a constructive role in de-escalating tensions

**HYDERABAD**

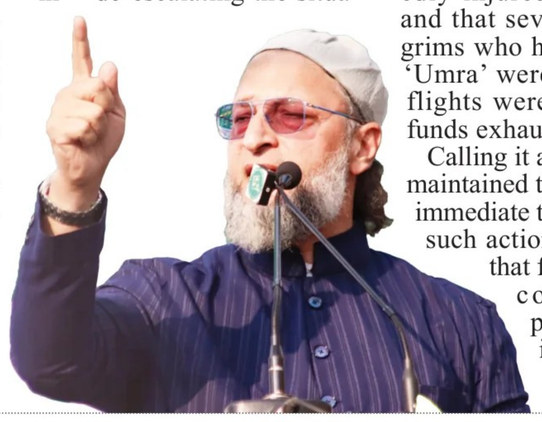
Asaduddin Owaisi, President of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), on Sunday termed the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as an immoral and unlawful act, strongly condemning the reported attacks on Iran by the United States and Israel.

The Hyderabad MP, speaking on behalf of his party, offered condolences to the Shia community, which regards Khamenei as its spiritual leader. He described the strikes as absolutely condemnable, particularly at a time when Iran-US talks were reportedly underway in Geneva. Referring to US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Owaisi alleged that the two leaders had jointly attacked Iran without regard for the holy month of Ramzan. They did not even care that it's the holy month of Ramzan. Anyway, Benjamin Netanyahu does not even believe in humanity, Owaisi told the media. The AIMIM leader claimed that if a diplomatic breakthrough had been achieved in Geneva, Iran might have agreed not to use any nuclear stockpiles it possessed.

He further stated that more than 200 people had reportedly been killed in the attacks, including 108 girls who lost their lives when strikes allegedly hit a girls' school.

Demanding an immediate halt to hostilities, Owaisi warned that continued military action would destabilise the entire region.

These attacks on Iran should stop at the earliest, otherwise the whole region will be embroiled in instability, he said. He also urged India to play a proactive role in de-escalating the situation. Expressing hope that the present BJP-led government would condemn the assassination, he emphasised that nearly 10 million Indians work in Gulf countries and could be affected by prolonged conflict.



Owaisi further claimed that Indian workers were reportedly injured at Oman port and that several Indian pilgrims who had travelled for 'Umra' were stranded after flights were cancelled and funds exhausted.

Calling it an illegal war, he maintained that there was no immediate threat warranting such action and cautioned that failure to end the conflict could plunge the region into widespread turmoil.

# Cong treated Puducherry as ATM to serve one family in Delhi: Modi

**PUDUCHERRY**

Narendra Modi on Sunday intensified his political attack on the Indian National Congress, alleging that the party had treated Puducherry as an ATM to serve only one family in Delhi and asserting that the Union Territory would never vote for it and its allies again.

Addressing a public meeting, the Prime Minister accused the Congress–DMK combine of obstructing development and presiding over corruption and administrative decline.

He alleged that governance deteriorated during the Congress and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) regime, claiming that corruption flourished and crime increased while welfare mechanisms weakened, adversely impacting the poor.

> 'During the Cong-DMK regime, corruption flourished and crime increased while welfare mechanisms weakened, adversely impacting the poor'

The people of Puducherry suffered greatly during Congress and DMK rule, he said.

Referring to the public distribution system, Modi alleged that families faced severe hardship in accessing essential commodities. There were times when ration shops did not have rice. Congress treated Puducherry like its own ATM, he charged, drawing applause from party supporters present at the rally.

The Prime Minister also extended his criticism to the DMK's governance in neighbouring Tamil Nadu, alleging that the party's political culture was marked by corruption and deception. He claimed that both Congress and the DMK had consistently acted as obstacles to Puducherry's growth and development aspirations.

Whenever Puducherry tries to accelerate its development, Congress and DMK put up roadblocks.

They have functioned as speed breakers in the journey of progress, he said.

Framing the political contest as a choice between what he described as failed past governance and a future driven by development, Modi urged voters to carefully assess the track record of parties seeking another term in power.

Those who once neglected Puducherry are asking for another chance.

The people must remember their past performance, he remarked, calling on citizens to support what he termed a development-oriented agenda for the Union Territory.

# Kejriwal claims vindication after court relief

**NEW DELHI**

Fresh from what he described as a morale-boosting reprieve in the liquor policy case, Arvind Kejriwal, National Convenor of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and former Delhi Chief Minister, on Sunday asserted that he is not corrupt and accused the BJP and the Congress of duping the nation.

Addressing a rally at Jantar Mantar, Kejriwal referred to a recent Delhi court order in the excise policy case, calling it a historic verdict delivered in favour of the people of Delhi and the country. The day before yesterday, a Delhi court gave a historic verdict — in favour of the people of Delhi, in favour of the people of the country. I want to congratulate the people of Delhi and the country for this historic decision, he said.

Praising the judiciary, he added that in what he termed a fearful atmosphere, the judge had delivered a courageous verdict. Kejriwal said he could not tolerate cheating or treason against the country and maintained that he loved India, rejecting allegations of corruption against him.

Targeting the Indian National Congress, he recalled that the party was voted out of power in 2014 after a series of alleged scams, including the coal scam, 2G spectrum case and Commonwealth Games controversy. People had high hopes for the new government. But have you got anything from it? he asked, turning his attack toward the BJP-led government at the Centre.

The AAP chief alleged that in the past 12 years, the BJP government had weakened key sectors, claiming that infrastructure, aviation, railways, banking, education and health were in poor condition. He also alleged the existence of a Rs 20,000 crore drugs racket in Gujarat and challenged BJP leaders to take action.

Kejriwal further claimed that Delhi residents had suffered over the past four years due to what he described as conspiracies by the BJP. Referring to allegations that he misappropriated Rs 100 crore, he said there was no proof to substantiate such claims.

He asserted that the court's verdict had exposed what he termed as falsehoods by his political opponents and declared that it had established his honesty, as party workers from multiple states gathered in support at the rally.

# Shias Protest in Kashmir after Khamenei's Reported Killing

**SRINAGAR**

Shia Muslims staged protests across parts of Kashmir on Sunday following reports of the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a joint US-Israel strike.

A large gathering assembled at Ghanta Ghar in Srinagar, where demonstrators held posters of Khamenei, waved Iranian flags and raised banners as they chanted pro-Islamic, anti-US and anti-Israel slogans. Similar protests were reported from Shia-majority localities in Budgam and other areas of the Valley.

Khamenei, who had visited Srinagar in the 1980s, was widely revered among sections of the Shia community in Kashmir. Iranian state media reported that several members of his family were also killed in the strike.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed concern over the developments and appealed for calm. He urged authorities to allow people to grieve peacefully and called on police to exercise restraint.

"We must ensure that those mourning in Jammu and Kashmir are allowed to grieve peacefully," he said, adding that the government is coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs to ensure the safety of residents, including students in Iran. The All J&K Shia Association issued a statement mourning the deaths and expressing solidarity with the people of Iran. Meanwhile, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti condemned the strike.

## 'Targeted Assassination Deserves Strong Condemnation': Priyanka on Khamenei Killing

**NEW DELHI**

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday strongly condemned the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, describing it as a "targeted assassination" that warrants unequivocal global condemnation.

In a post on X, the Congress general secretary criticised the United States and Israel over the airstrikes that reportedly killed the 86-year-old cleric in Tehran. She termed the action "despicable" and said such acts by the "so-called leaders of the democratic world" undermine international norms and sovereignty.

"The targeted assassination of the leadership of a sovereign nation… deserves strong condemnation, no matter what the proclaimed reason for it is," she wrote, adding that the world needs peace, "not more unnecessary wars." Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Priyanka said she hoped that having "genuflected" before Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Donald Trump, he would ensure the safe evacuation of all Indian citizens from affected regions. Her remarks came amid escalating tensions in West Asia following coordinated strikes by the US and Israel on Iran. Iran's state media reported that Khamenei was killed in an airstrike targeting his compound in central Tehran, triggering fears of wider regional conflict. The Congress party also criticised the Centre's foreign policy approach, alleging that India is paying a "heavy price" for both its substance and style.

# INDIAN ICE HOCKEY TEAM STRANDED IN MUMBAI AFTER FLIGHT CANCELLATIONS AMID IRAN WAR

**MUMBAI**

Several international flights were disrupted or cancelled at Mumbai airport following escalating tensions in West Asia after US-Israel strikes on Iran, leaving passengers stranded, including an Indian ice hockey team scheduled to participate in a European championship.

Members of the team, who were set to travel to Germany for the tournament, expressed deep disappointment after their flight was abruptly cancelled. A passenger from Karnataka, part of the contingent, said the team's long-awaited opportunity has been jeopardised.

I am from Karnataka. We are an Indian team, were going to participate in the European Ice Hockey Championship. As we were going to the Championship, our flight was suddenly cancelled due to the war. We are really sad that we will not be able to attend the European Ice Hockey Championship, she said.

According to the players and their families, the team had been preparing for nearly two years for the international event.

The mother of one of the players said her son and his teammates were travelling to Germany to represent India in the sport.

My son and his teammates were going to Germany to represent the Indian team in ice hockey. Unfortunately, due to the war situation, the flights have been cancelled. Children have been working for this sport for almost two years now, practising every day till 11 o'clock at night, with the only hope that they will lift the Indian flag high at the event. Due to the cancellation of the flights, there is huge disappointment in the

hearts of children, parents, and the coaches, she said.

Airport authorities have increased coordination efforts amid the evolving geopolitical situation, while airlines are issuing advisories to passengers regarding possible rescheduling or alternative arrangements.

Many affected travellers at Mumbai airport voiced concern over the uncertainty surrounding their travel plans as tensions in the region continue to impact international air routes.

'SASHAKT NARI, SAMRIDDH DELHI'

# *Delhi to launch pink NCMC for women*

**NEW DELHI**

Inspired by the Centre's 'One Nation, One Card' initiative, the Rekha Gupta-led Delhi government is set to roll out the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) for women, with Droupadi Murmu scheduled to formally launch the facility on Monday, an official said.

The 'Pink Card' scheme will be unveiled at a programme titled 'Sashakt Nari, Samriddh Delhi' at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said. On the occasion, selected eligible women beneficiaries will be presented with the Pink NCMC cards.

The Chief Minister described the initiative as a major reform aimed at building a modern, digital and inclusive public transport system in the national capital.

Under the scheme, the Pink Card will provide free travel to eligible women residents on buses operated by the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC). In addition, the card will allow seamless paid access to the Delhi Metro, the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), and other public transport services through a single smart card platform.

Chief Minister Gupta said the initiative marks an important step toward making public transport more accessible, safer and digitally enabled. By reducing daily commuting expenses, the scheme is expected to enhance women's access to education, employment, healthcare and other social opportunities.

She further announced that three types of NCMC cards will be issued under the programme. The Pink Card will be for eligible women residents of Delhi, the Blue Card for general commuters, and the Orange Card for monthly pass users. In the initial phase, the Pink and Blue cards will be launched, followed later by the Orange Card, she said.

According to the Chief Minister, these cards will be integrated with the existing Automatic Fare Collection System (AFCS) operating across Delhi's public transport network, ensuring a unified and contactless commuting experience.

The Pink Card will be provided completely free of cost to eligible women residents.

# Written test for recruiting Group-C workers of WBSSC held

**KOLKATA**

After a long wait, the written examination for the recruitment of Group-C workers of the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) was held in the state on Sunday, amidst tight security arrangements.

With the publication of the final voters' list after Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process and the arrival of central paramilitary forces in the state, the WBSSC took extra precautions regarding the security and administrative management of the examination centres.

Although there was a possibility of deployment of paramilitary forces in schools and colleges for purpose of upcoming Assembly elections, special instructions were given to the administration to ensure that there was no presence of central forces in the examination centres on the day of the written exam.

According to WBSSC sources, the Group-C exam was conducted at 1,693 centres across the state on Sunday.

About 8,04,000 candidates had applied for this exam for 2,989 vacancies.

On the other hand, the Group-D recruitment exam will be held on March 8. About 8,09,000 applications were received for the Group-D exam. The total number of exam centres for both Group-C and Group-D was about 3,400.

For the sake of safety, several restrictions were issued for the candidates.

Boots or closed shoes were not allowed. Only students with slippers or Hawaiian sandals were allowed.

Carrying any electronic gadgets including mobile phones, calculators, jewellery or additional items was prohibited. Only the admit card, clear water bottle and pen were allowed.

Today, Group-C candidates entered the examination centre from 10 a.m. as per rules. Candidates were asked to reach the centre by 10 a.m. and no one was allowed to enter after 11.45 a.m. The total marks for Group-C examination are 60 and the examination concluded at 1:50 pm.

Candidates from outside states also appeared for the Group-C exam. The SSC had sent a letter to the state's DGP and Kolkata Police Commissioner regarding today's exam.

On Saturday, School Service Commission Chairman Siddhartha Majumdar said, All preparations for the exam have been completed and strict security measures have been put in place.

# ISRAEL RENEWS STRIKES ON TEHRAN

Israel expands military offensive as Iran vows to avenge the death of its decades-long leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in US-Israeli strikes

**JERUSALEM**

Israel's military announced on Sunday that it had launched a broad wave of air strikes deep inside Tehran, marking a dramatic escalation in the ongoing conflict with Iran.

The offensive came hours after the United States and Israel stated that an earlier air strike had killed Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, triggering fears of widespread instability across the Middle East.

According to Israeli military officials, the air force conducted large-scale operations over the past 24 hours aimed at opening what it described as the path to Tehran. The strikes reportedly targeted strategic and military infrastructure in and around the Iranian capital. The Israeli military characterized the campaign as a decisive step in its broader objective to weaken and potentially overthrow the government of the Islamic Republic.

Iran's state media confirmed the death of 86-year-old Ayatollah Ali Khamenei following the air strike. Khamenei, who had served as Iran's Supreme Leader since 1989, held ultimate authority

in the country's political and military hierarchy. As Supreme Leader, he acted as commander-in-chief of the armed forces and had the final say on key matters of state, including foreign policy, which has long been defined by confrontation with the United States and Israel.

Under Iran's constitution, the Supreme Leader is appointed by the Assembly of Experts, an 88-member clerical body responsible for supervising and, in theory, dismissing the country's highest authority. In the wake of Khamenei's death, his adviser and top security official, Ali Larijani, announced that a temporary leadership council would be established in accordance with constitutional provisions until a new leader is selected.

Two U.S. sources and a U.S. official familiar with the matter revealed that Israel and the United States had coordinated the timing of Saturday's strike to coincide with a high-level meeting Khamenei was holding with senior aides. The targeted attack and subsequent strikes on Tehran have significantly heightened tensions in the region, raising concerns of broader military confrontation and political upheaval across the Middle East.

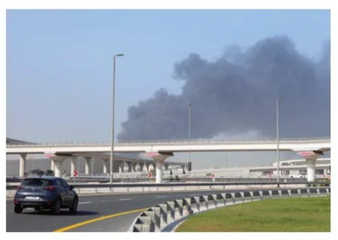
## Iran's retaliatory strikes rock Gulf cities for second day

**DUBAI**

Loud explosions were reported for a second consecutive day in Dubai and Qatar's capital Doha on Sunday, while Oman was struck for the first time, as retaliatory attacks linked to the widening conflict between Iran, the United States and Israel spread across the Gulf region. The developments have intensified fears of a broader regional war and significant disruption to global trade and travel.

Iran had previously warned that it would target U.S. military bases in the region following joint U.S.-Israeli strikes on the Islamic Republic. However, the latest wave of attacks has affected a broader range of sites across major Gulf cities, causing damage to key infrastructure and commercial hubs.

In Dubai, damage was reported at several prominent landmarks and facilities, including Dubai International Airport, the iconic Burj Al



Arab hotel, and the man-made Palm Jumeirah Island. Thick black plumes of smoke continued to rise from the Jebel Ali port area, one of the busiest ports in the Middle East. Authorities said one of the berths caught fire on Sunday after debris from an intercepted missile fell into the area, igniting flames and prompting emergency response operations.

Dubai, the region's leading tourism and trade hub, hosts one of the world's busiest airports, making any disruption a matter of international concern. Officials have not yet provided a full assessment of the extent of the structural damage or potential impact on commercial flights and shipping operations.

In neighbouring Oman, which had been spared during the initial phase of retaliatory strikes, the Duqm commercial port was targeted by two drones. According to the state news agency, one worker was wounded in the attack. Omani authorities are assessing the damage and strengthening security around key infrastructure sites.

Meanwhile, Qatar's interior ministry confirmed it was responding to a limited fire in an industrial zone in Doha after debris from an intercepted missile fell into the area. Emergency services were deployed promptly, and officials described the situation as under control.

The expanding scope of the strikes underscores the increasing volatility in the Gulf, with major economic and logistical centers now caught in the crossfire. Regional governments remain on high alert as tensions continue to mount.

## Deadly protests erupt in Karachi, Baghdad after Khamenei's death

**KARACHI**

At least nine protesters were killed in Pakistan's largest city, Karachi, after crowds breached the outer wall of the U.S. consulate following reports of U.S. and Israeli air strikes that killed Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The unrest underscores the widening regional fallout from the escalating confrontation involving Iran, the United States and Israel.

According to local authorities, demonstrators gathered outside the U.S. Consulate in Karachi shortly after news spread of Khamenei's death. Protesters reportedly set a vehicle ablaze outside the main gate and clashed with police forces deployed to secure the compound. A

spokesman for the local government said security personnel managed to push the crowd back from the consulate premises.

Police confirmed that at least nine people were killed during the chaos, though it was not immediately clear how the fatalities occurred. Reuters reporters at the scene said they heard gunfire and witnessed police firing tear gas to disperse the crowds in surrounding streets. Video footage circulating online showed protesters holding portraits of Khamenei and chanting Death to America before clashes intensified.

Inside the compound, a diplomat told reporters, We're safe, indicating that staff members were secure despite the violence outside. The U.S. Consulate in Karachi and the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad did not immediately respond to requests for official comment.

Meanwhile, unrest also flared in neighbouring Iraq. In the capital, Baghdad, Iraqi police fired tear gas and stun grenades to disperse hundreds of pro-Iranian demonstrators who had gathered outside the heavily fortified Green Zone, home to the U.S. Embassy. Protesters chanted Death to Israel, death to America as they confronted security forces.

Pakistan and Iraq, which have the largest Shi'ite Muslim populations after Iran, have witnessed heightened tensions as anger over Khamenei's killing reverberates across the region. The protests signal growing instability beyond Iran's borders, raising concerns about the security of diplomatic missions and the potential for further escalation in already volatile conditions.

## QUICK READ

### CBSE postpones Class 10, 12 Board exams in Middle East

**CBSE Board Exams Postponed:**
The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has postponed the Class 10 and 12 board examinations scheduled for March 2, 2026, in the Middle East due to the prevailing situation in the region. The board said that fresh dates will be announced later. "The examinations scheduled for March 2 for both Class 10 and Class 12, are postponed. The new dates shall be announced later," the official notice stated.

The exams have been postponed in several Middle Eastern countries, including Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. The board will review the situation again on March 3 and take a decision regarding the examinations scheduled from March 5, 2026, onwards. "The Board will review the situation on Tuesday, 03 March 2026, and take appropriate decisions with regard to examinations scheduled from 05 March onwards," the notice added.

### UAE warns Iran, asks it to behave responsibly with neighbours

**Abu Dhabi**
The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Sunday advised Iran to return to its senses and deal with its neighbouring nations with reason and responsibility before the circle of isolation and escalation widens. Anwar Gargash, senior diplomatic advisor to UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, stated that Iran's attack against the Gulf states missed its target and has isolated Tehran at this critical moment. Gargash stressed that Iran's actions confirm the narrative of those who consider Iran as the primary source of danger, and its missile program as a perpetual threat to instability. Iran's aggression against the Gulf states missed its target and isolated Iran at its critical moment.

## Avoid unnecessary travel: Indian Embassy in Lebanon

**BEIRUT**

Amid ongoing tensions in the Middle Eastern region, the Indian Embassy in Lebanon has advised all Indian nationals to avoid unnecessary travel, remain vigilant and observe locally advised safety and emergency procedures. The embassy asked Indian nationals in Lebanon to contact it on its mobile number or through email in case of any emergency. In the advisory issued on Sunday, the Indian Embassy said: In view of the current situation in the region, all Indian nationals in Lebanon are advised to avoid unnecessary travel, remain vigilant and observe locally advised safety and emergency procedures.

## Afghan fires at Pak jets as Kabul rocked by blasts

**KABUL**

Afghanistan said it fired at Pakistani jets over the capital, Kabul, early Sunday after explosions and gunfire shook the city, deepening instability in a region already unsettled by US–Israeli strikes on Iran and retaliatory attacks across Gulf states.

According to a Reuters witness, multiple explosions echoed across parts of Kabul before sunrise, followed by sustained bursts of gunfire. The exact targets were not immediately clear, and there was no confirmation of casualties at the time of reporting. Residents reported panic as air defence systems appeared to activate in response to aerial activity over the city.

The Taliban administration's spokesperson, Zabihullah Mujahid, said Afghan forces had launched air defence attacks against Pakistani aircraft flying over the capital. Air defence attacks were carried out in Kabul against Pakistani aircraft. Kabul residents should not be concerned, Mujahid said in a statement, seeking to reassure citizens amid rising tensions.

The incident follows a week of escalating hostilities between Afghanistan's Taliban-led government and Pakistan. Islamabad has conducted strikes against what it describes as militant targets inside Afghanistan, accusing Kabul of harbouring insurgent groups responsible for cross-border attacks, allega-

**Pre-dawn explosions in Kabul heighten fears of prolonged Afghanistan-Pakistan conflict.**

tions the Taliban authorities strongly deny.

The renewed confrontation marks some of the heaviest fighting between the two neighbours in years, raising fears of a prolonged conflict along their 2,600-kilometre (1,615-mile) shared border. The deteriorating security situation has prompted concern from regional powers. Countries including Qatar and Saudi Arabia have called for restraint and expressed willingness to mediate efforts toward a ceasefire.

The latest developments come at a time of broader regional volatility, with tensions already high due to military actions involving Iran, the United States and Israel. Analysts warn that simultaneous flashpoints across the region risk creating a wider and more unpredictable security crisis, particularly if border clashes between Afghanistan and Pakistan intensify further.

## SU DO KU

**Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?**

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Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

**Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.**

**DRAMA BEHIND THE CONCLAVE**

## *'Cardinal found with phone during secret conclave'*

**VATICAN**

A secret conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV as head of the Catholic Church last May was briefly interrupted after one of the 133 participating cardinals was found carrying a cellphone inside the voting chamber, according to a new book released on Sunday.

The incident has been described as a major security breach during one of the most secretive processes in the Vatican.

The revelation appears in The Election of Pope Leo XIV, written by veteran Vatican correspondents Gerard O'Connell and Elisabetta

Pique. The authors detail how, as the cardinals gathered inside the Sistine Chapel to cast their first vote, security officials detected an active mobile signal despite sophisticated jamming systems installed to block all outside communications.

According to the book, the unexpected signal caused visible alarm among the assembled clerics. The cardinals reportedly looked at one another in disbelief before an elderly member of the College of Cardinals realized he had inadvertently kept a mobile phone in his pocket. He immediately surrendered the device. The authors state there is no indication the cardinal had any improper motive, describing him as disoriented and distressed by the discovery.

Papal conclaves are conducted under strict secrecy, with participants required to surrender all electronic devices before entering the sealed environment. The integrity of the process is considered essential to safeguarding the independence of the Church's highest decision-making event.

O'Connell and Pique described the episode as unimaginable even for a film and never before seen in the history of modern conclaves. The scene drew comparisons to the 2024 film Conclave, which dramatized fictional intrigue during a papal election. Yet, the authors suggest that the real-life discovery of a phone inside the Sistine Chapel was, in its own way, more startling than any cinematic portrayal.

# IRAN CONFLICT:

## Women Wrestlers Stranded in Albania, Sindhu Held in Dubai

### US-Israel strikes on Iran trigger global travel chaos for athletes

**KOLKATA**

The escalating conflict following US-Israel strikes on Iran has disrupted international air travel, leaving Indian women wrestlers stranded in Tirana and badminton star PV Sindhu stuck in Dubai.

A 16-member women's wrestling squad, along with support staff, is currently stranded in Tirana, Albania, after their return flight via Dubai was cancelled. The team had travelled to compete in the second Ranking Series event, which commenced on February 25. While the men's freestyle team returned to India after completing their campaign, the women's squad now faces uncertainty amid the global crisis.

"We were scheduled to fly out at 1 PM local time from Tirana, but the flight has been cancelled as it was via Dubai," a member of the coaching staff said. He added that the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) is working on alternative arrangements to bring the contingent home safely.

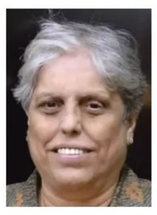
The wrestlers are staying at the team hotel but were required to vacate their rooms by 11 AM on Sunday, raising logistical concerns. Sources in the WFI confirmed that the Sports Authority of India has been informed and requested to coordinate with the Indian Embassy in Albania for assistance. If flight arrangements are delayed, the contingent may have to shift to another hotel.

Despite the turmoil, the Indian women delivered a commendable performance, clinching three silver and two bronze medals. Priyanshi Prajapat (50kg), Meenakshi (53kg) and Neha (57kg) secured silver medals, while Muskan (50kg) and Savita (62kg) won bronze. Earlier, Sujeet Kalkal bagged gold in the 65kg category.

Meanwhile, two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu was stranded at Dubai Airport en route to Birmingham for the prestigious All England Open. She revealed on social media that an explosion occurred near their location at the airport, causing panic. Sindhu later confirmed that she and her team were safely moved to a secure area, thanking airport authorities and the Indian High Commission in Dubai for their swift support.

## A Double Honour for Diana Edulji at Wankhede

**MUMBAI**



The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has honoured one of India's pioneering women cricketers by naming a gate at Wankhede Stadium after Diana Edulji, a tribute she calls a "double honour." As part of an initiative to recognise cricketing greats, the MCA dedicated stands and gates to legends including Ravi Shastri, Dilip Sardesai, Eknath Solkar and Edulji. The Level 1 stand below the press box now bears Shastri's name, while Gate No. 5 on the railway bridge is named after Edulji.

Edulji said the gesture celebrates both her cricketing journey and her long association with Railway Sports. Raised in a railway colony, she began playing with a tennis ball before rising to represent Railways and captain the Indian women's team. A slow left-arm orthodox bowler, she became one of women's cricket's most accomplished figures.

MCA officials noted space constraints influenced the gate placements. For Edulji, the honour marks a full-circle journey at Mumbai's iconic cricket venue.

## T20 WC 2026: Pak Exit Despite Thrilling Win; NZ Reach Semis

**PALLEKELE**

Pakistan were knocked out of the T20 World Cup 2026 despite a narrow five-run victory over Sri Lanka in their Super Eights clash, as New Zealand national cricket team advanced to the semifinals on superior net run rate.

Asked to bat first, Pakistan posted a daunting 212 for 8 in their 20 overs. Sahibzada Farhan delivered a scintillating knock of 100, anchoring the innings with authority, while his opening partner Fakhar Zaman smashed 84 in a blistering display. The duo laid a solid foundation, propelling Pakistan to one of their highest totals in the tournament.

However, the equation was clear — Pakistan needed to restrict Sri Lanka to 147 or below to overhaul New Zealand's net run rate and seal a semifinal berth from Group 2. Despite a spirited bowling effort, they fell short of that target.

**Farhan century in vain as net run rate ends hopes**

Sri Lanka, already out of semifinal contention, mounted a strong chase and finished at 207 for 6. Captain Dasun Shanaka led from the front with an explosive unbeaten 76 off just 31 deliveries, while Pavan Rathnayake contributed a steady 58 to keep the hosts in the hunt till the final over.

For Pakistan, leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed emerged as the standout bowler, claiming three wickets for 23 runs. Though Pakistan managed to defend the total and secure victory by five runs, the margin was insufficient to tilt the net run rate equation in their favour.

Both Pakistan and New Zealand concluded the Super Eights stage with three points each. However, New Zealand progressed as the second-placed team owing to their superior net run rate, joining group leaders England cricket team in the semifinals after England won all three of their Super Eights fixtures.

## Lovlina, Nikhat to Spearhead India's Campaign at Asian Boxing Championships

**NEW DELHI**

Lovlina Borgohain and Nikhat Zareen will lead a strong 20-member Indian contingent at the upcoming Asian Boxing Championships in Mongolia, where qualification spots for the Commonwealth and Asian Games will also be at stake.

The continental showpiece is scheduled to be held from March 28 to April 11 and assumes added importance this year, with finalists in approved weight categories earning direct berths for the multi-sport events later in the season, as per the Boxing Federation of India's selection policy.

Lovlina, a former world champion and Olympic medallist, will compete in the 75kg category and is considered one of the favourites for the title. Nikhat, a multiple-time world champion, will represent India in the 51kg division, bolstering the women's squad with her experience and pedigree.

The team was finalised after a rigorous month-long evaluation process that took into account performances at the National Championships in January and the ongoing national camp in Patiala. Among the women, Preeti Pawar (54kg), Arundhati Choudhary (70kg) and Priya (60kg) — all medallists at the recent Boxam Elite International in Spain — have also been named, strengthening India's medal prospects.

In the men's section, Sachin Siwach (60kg), a gold medallist at the World Boxing Cup Finals and Boxam International, will be one of India's strongest contenders. He will be joined by Vishwanath Suresh (50kg), Jadumani Singh (55kg), Aditya Pratap Yadav (65kg), Deepak (70kg), Akash (75kg), Ankush (80kg), Lokesh (85kg), Harsh Choudhary (90kg) and Narender (90+kg).

The women's line-up also features Minakshi Hooda (48kg), Jaismine Lamboriya (57kg), Ankushita Boro (65kg), Pooja Rani (80kg) and Alfiya Pathan (80+kg).

With a blend of seasoned champions and emerging talent, India will aim for a dominant performance in Mongolia and secure crucial qualification spots ahead of a packed international calendar.

*Historic title validates decades of belief, resilience and untapped talent*

## Maiden Ranji Triumph Will Inspire Generations, Says Proud Rasool

**HUBBALLI**

Jammu & Kashmir's landmark Ranji Trophy triumph is more than a cricketing achievement — it is a moment of validation, pride and inspiration, said former captain Parvez Rasool after the team scripted history with its maiden title.

For Rasool and former skipper Samiullah Beigh, who carried the region's cricketing hopes long before the recent surge, the victory marked the culmination of years of faith in local talent. Rasool, the first cricketer from Jammu & Kashmir to represent India, described the win as an emotional milestone.

"Whoever has contributed to J&K cricket, it is a happy occasion for all of them," Rasool said. "We are lifting this trophy after 67 years since our first Ranji campaign. This win will inspire generations to come."

Beigh, who featured in 61 First-Class matches, echoed similar sentiments. He recalled how belief in the region's cricketers remained steadfast even when infrastructure lagged behind. "We always had talent. What we didn't have was the infrastructure to back it," Beigh said. "A decade ago, when I spoke about how J&K's fortunes would change if facilities improved, people thought I was bragging. But we saw the hunger and ability every day."

The breakthrough season, many believe, reflects the transformation brought about by improved support systems, coaching and exposure. Former India and Karnataka off-spinner Sunil Joshi, who coached the side in 2014-15, said the seeds of success were sown years ago. "Even then, we had a strong pace attack capable of bowling long spells due to their exceptional stamina," Joshi recalled. "They didn't need outside talent because they had plenty in their backyard. What they required was technical guidance and mentorship."

Joshi credited current coach Ajay Sharma for channelising the players' hunger effectively, while Paras Dogra's experience added maturity to the squad. The team's celebratory jig on the field symbolised more than a title — it marked the arrival of Jammu & Kashmir as a cricketing force. For Rasool and countless young aspirants watching, the victory stands as proof that belief, backed by opportunity, can transform dreams into enduring legacy.

## Bezzecchi Wins Thailand MotoGP as Marquez Suffers Late Retirement

**BURIRAM**

Marco Bezzecchi fired the opening salvo of the 2026 season with a commanding victory at the Thailand Grand Prix, while defending champion Marc Marquez endured heartbreak after retiring late due to a mechanical issue.

Riding for Aprilia Racing, Bezzecchi converted pole position into a flawless lights-to-flag triumph at the Chang International Circuit in Buriram. The Italian, who had crashed out while leading Saturday's sprint race, made amends in emphatic style, storming into an early lead and steadily building a gap over the chasing pack.

He eventually crossed the finish line more than five seconds clear, sealing his third consecutive Grand Prix victory dating back to last season. KTM's Pedro Acosta secured second place with a composed ride, while Raul Fernandez of Trackhouse Racing completed the podium in third.

Marquez's race unravelled in the closing stages when a buckled wheel forced him to retire, denying him valuable early championship points. It was a disappointing start for the reigning champion, who had shown competitive pace throughout the weekend.

Elsewhere, 2024 world champion Jorge Martin finished fourth as he continues his comeback from an injury-hit campaign last year. Trackhouse's Ai Ogura claimed fifth, followed by VR46's Fabio Di Giannantonio and KTM's Brad Binder. Alex Marquez crashed out late in the race, while two-time world champion Francesco Bagnaia recovered from 13th on the grid to finish ninth.

Reflecting on his performance, Bezzecchi said, "Yesterday was a small mistake with a big consequence, so it was important today to bounce back. My pace with the medium tyre was strong all weekend, and I knew I could be fast if I stayed in front."

The FIM MotoGP World Championship now heads to Brazil for the second round of the season on March 22, with Bezzecchi carrying early momentum in the title race.

## World Cup 2026 Nears as 100-Day Countdown Begins Amid Global Tensions

**LOS ANGELES**

The 100-day countdown to the 2026 FIFA World Cup begins this week, with the expanded tournament promising record-breaking scale and revenues even as geopolitical tensions and domestic political challenges cast a shadow over preparations.

For the first time, 48 teams will compete — up from 32 in 2022 — across the United States, Canada and Mexico in a tri-nation spectacle. The tournament will kick off on June 11 at the Estadio Azteca in Mexico City and culminate on July 19 at MetLife Stadium.

A total of 104 matches will be played across 16 venues and four time zones, with the United States hosting 78 games. Gianni Infantino has described the tournament's magnitude as equivalent to "104 Super Bowls," forecasting record revenues of $11 billion — comfortably surpassing the $7 billion generated in Qatar in 2022.

Infantino has cited more than 508 million ticket requests for approximately seven million seats as evidence of unprecedented demand. However, FIFA's pricing policy has drawn criticism from fan organisations such as Football Supporters Europe, which labelled it a "monumental betrayal." FIFA has since introduced a limited tranche of $60 tickets for official supporters' groups.

Beyond commercial projections, political complexities loom large. Trade tensions involving co-hosts Canada and Mexico, immigration crackdowns in the United States and visa uncertainties for fans from nations including Iran, Haiti, Senegal and Ivory Coast have triggered anxiety. Meanwhile, recent unrest in Guadalajara following anti-drug operations has added to logistical concerns in Mexico.

On the pitch, defending champions Argentina national football team will once again rely on Lionel Messi, who turns 39 during what is expected to be his final World Cup. Former champions France and European titleholders Spain are among the favourites, while England — now coached by Thomas Tuchel — seek to end a 60-year major trophy drought. As the countdown gathers pace, the world's biggest sporting carnival stands poised between spectacle and uncertainty.

## FIH Pro League | Amateur Display in a Pro League

**BENGALURU**

The Indian men's hockey team's campaign in the FIH Pro League has raised serious concerns, with a string of underwhelming performances exposing structural flaws, fitness issues and a worrying lack of killer instinct ahead of a packed international season.

With only one third-place finish in the 2021-22 edition as their best result, India's record in the nine-team FIH Pro League has never been particularly impressive. However, after finishing eighth last year under coach Craig Fulton, there was hope that lessons had been learnt. Instead, the seventh edition has mirrored — if not worsened — past struggles.

India's eight matches in the first leg yielded five losses, no outright wins and three draws (two shootout defeats and one shootout win), leaving them with just four points and languishing in eighth place, only above Pakistan men's national field hockey team at the halfway mark.

The numbers are stark. India have scored just nine goals — the lowest among all teams — while conceding 25. The 0-8 thrashing by Argentina men's national field hockey team stands out as a low point. Equally alarming are the 21 penalty corners earned compared to 67 conceded and consistently inferior circle penetration statistics across matches against Belgium, Argentina, Spain and Australia.

Former Olympic gold medal-winning captain Vasudevan Baskaran did not mince words. "Lack of killer instinct" and "elementary mistakes" have hurt the side, he said, questioning both fitness levels and professionalism. He also pointed to defensive frailties in a team that prides itself on structure.

Former international Sandeep Somesh echoed similar concerns, highlighting poor transitions from defence to attack and inadequate work rate among forwards. "Without high intensity and coordinated pressing, space creation becomes impossible," he observed.

Fulton, however, has maintained that experimentation with younger players is part of long-term planning, especially with the World Cup and Asian Games scheduled close together later this year.

Despite the setbacks, optimism lingers. As Baskaran summed up, with better planning, rest and cohesion, the team can still regroup. For Indian hockey fans, hope remains — even if the ride promises to be turbulent.

# ADANI-OPERATED HAIFA PORT REMAINS SECURE AMID US-IRAN CONFLICT

The port operator says it's closely monitoring the situation and is coordinating with Israel's Ministry of Transport and Road Safety

**AHMEDABAD**

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) on Sunday said that operations at Israel's Haifa Port remain normal and all employees are safe amid the ongoing tensions in the region.

In an official statement, APSEZ said that the Haifa Port Company has confirmed that all its staff members are safe and that port assets and infrastructure are fully secure and operational. The company emphasised that there has been no disruption to port activities despite the prevailing situation.

Haifa Port Company confirms that all its employees are safe, and all port assets and infrastructure are fully secure and in operational condition, APSEZ said in its statement, reassuring stakeholders about the stability of operations.

The port operator added that it is closely monitoring developments and coordinating with the Ministry of Transport and Road Safety in Israel. According to the company, the port is functioning strictly in line with the instructions and guidelines issued by the authorities.

The port continues to monitor the situation and is coordinating closely with the Ministry of Transport and Road Safety and operating as per their instructions, the statement noted.

APSEZ further reiterated its commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of its employees while maintaining uninterrupted operations. The company stressed that stable functioning of Haifa Port is crucial for Israel's supply chain and international trade flows.

We remain committed to ensuring the safety of our people and the continuity of operations, maintaining stability for Israel's supply chain and international trade, the company said.

The clarification comes amid heightened tensions in the region following recent US and Israeli attacks on Iran and subsequent retaliatory actions. APSEZ's statement seeks to reassure investors, partners, and customers that there has been no damage to infrastructure and that business activities at Haifa Port are continuing as usual despite the geopolitical situation.

## Production rise in non Gulf areas unlikely to offset oil disruption from Iran war

**MUMBAI**

Missiles fired between Iran and Israel-US joint forces across the Gulf pose one of the most serious disruptions to oil flows in decades and may not be offset by production increases outside the Gulf, analysts said on Sunday.

Traders warned that prices could jump sharply when markets reopen on Monday if the violence continues. Though no confirmed disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, the risk of tankers being stranded or targeted has prompted major oil traders to suspend shipments through the strait.

The narrow waterway between Iran and Oman handles nearly 20 million barrels a day of crude and refined products.

Tanker freight rates have already risen, with benchmark rates for very large crude carriers from the Middle East to China having tripled in 2026 YTD, indicating that vessels are shrinking away from taking risks.

The Middle East supplies about 20 per cent of the world's oil, and the scale of disruption will depend on if energy infrastructure will be directly targeted and how quickly normal service on shipping routes resumes, they said.

So far, war conflict between Iran and Israel-US joint forces have not led to any confirmed hits to major oil and gas infrastructure, though explosions were reported in the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait and blasts were heard near Iran's Kharg Island, the terminal that handles most of Tehran's crude exports, according to multiple reports.

Analysts noted that even short term conflicts have outsized effects on prices and supply, citing past incidents in the Gulf during the 1980s Iran Iraq war.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced a new wave of attacks targeting US and Israeli military installations across the Middle East, to avenge the recent US-Israeli strikes on Iran that reportedly killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

This great crime will never remain unanswered and will turn a new page in the history of the Islamic world, an official statement from Iran's government said.

## US-Iran war could hit Bangladesh exports, macro stability

**DHAKA**

The US Iran war is likely to disrupt transportation of Bangladesh's exports to Europe and the US and affect the country's overall macroeconomic stability, a report has said.

The report from The Daily Star said rising prices of imported petroleum products and liquefied natural gas (LNG) and disruptions to industrial raw material supply chains are likely if the conflict continues.

Bangladesh is always a victim of geo political tension as the country is an importing nation, Harun Ur Rashid, chairman of Bangladesh Container Shipping Association, was cited as saying.

Unstable energy price and supply would burden the balance of payments and foreign exchange reserves as the Middle East is the main import source for Bangladesh, the report cited another expert as saying.

Further the main shipping artery of goods-Suez Canal's proximity to Iran could hinder shipments to Europe and the US, especially garment exports and long term conflict may discourage Middle Eastern labour markets from recruiting Bangladeshi workers, it detailed.

Any long term war in the Middle East will invariably have a bad impact on the oil price, transportation of the LPG and availability of the LPG in the international markets, the report cited Mohammed Amirul Haque, managing director of Delta LPG and president of the LPG Operators Association of Bangladesh.

Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, noted that a prolonged conflict could cause the budget of consumers to shrink leading to lesser spending on items such as garments.

Bangladesh exported goods worth $10.9 million, mainly garments and pharmaceuticals, to Iran's $65 billion market in FY25, the report noted.

Analysts have noted that even short term conflicts have outsized effects on prices and supply, citing past incidents in the Gulf during the 1980s Iran Iraq war.

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### QUICK READ

### TCS' market cap falls over Rs 18,000 crore last week

**Mumbai**

The market capitalisation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) dropped by Rs 18,180.89 crore last week, bringing its total valuation down to Rs 9,53,872.59 crore, as equity markets remained under pressure. Overall, nine of the top-10 most valued companies together lost Rs 2,18,902.09 crore in market valuation during the week, reflecting a bearish trend in the stock market. The BSE benchmark index declined sharply by 1,527.52 points, or 1.84 per cent, over the same period. According to Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research at Religare Broking Limited, equity markets ended the week under notable pressure due to persistent geopolitical tensions and weakness in technology stocks, which hurt overall investor sentiment.

### Tata Motors sales jump 32% in Feb on strong truck demand

**New Delhi**

Tata Motors Limited on Sunday reported a sharp 32 per cent year-on-year (YoY) rise in total sales for February 2026. The company sold 42,940 vehicles in domestic and international markets during the month, compared to 32,533 units in February 2025. Domestic sales stood at 40,893 units, marking a strong growth of 32.8 per cent from 30,797 units in the same month last year. The company's international business also showed steady improvement, with sales rising 17.9 per cent to 2,047 units from 1,736 units a year ago. The growth was led by strong performance across various truck and commercial vehicle categories.

### FPIs pump Rs 22,615 cr into Indian equities in Feb, highest in 17 months

**Mumbai**

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) made a strong comeback to Indian equities in February, investing Rs 22,615 crore. This marks the highest monthly inflow in the past 17 months and comes after three straight months of heavy selling. The fresh buying was supported by positive developments such as the interim India-US trade deal, correction in domestic market valuations and strong third-quarter corporate earnings. The renewed confidence helped reverse the recent trend of outflows. According to data from the depositories, FPIs had pulled out Rs 35,962 crore in January, Rs 22,611 crore in December and Rs 3,765 crore in November.

*City logs 13,029 property registrations in February 2026, generating Rs 1,134 crore stamp duty revenue.*

## Mumbai records highest Feb property registrations in 14 years

**MUMBAI**

Mumbai city recorded 13,029 property registrations in February 2026, generating over Rs 1,134 crore in stamp duty revenue for the state exchequer, marking the highest February performance in 14 years in both registrations and collections, according to a report released on Sunday by Knight Frank India.

The report highlighted that property registrations rose 8 per cent year-on-year (YoY), while stamp duty collections surged 21 per cent YoY. The sharper rise in revenue compared to registrations indicates a growing share of premium and large-ticket transactions in the city's real estate market. Residential properties accounted for nearly 80 per cent of total registrations, reflecting sustained end-user demand.

According to the consultancy, the steady performance is backed by stable macroeconomic conditions, ongoing infrastructure expansion, and improved buyer sentiment. Mumbai's residential market data shows not a short-term spike, but a structurally strong and resilient market, said Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director of Knight Frank India.

Baijal further noted that the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) largest-ever budget and transformative infrastructure initiatives such as the Mumbai Coastal Road and key link corridors are expected to strengthen the positive trajectory of the housing sector. These projects are anticipated to enhance accessibility and widen residential catchments across the metropolitan region.

The report also pointed to a clear shift toward premium housing. The share of properties priced above Rs 5 crore increased to 8 per cent from 6 per cent a year earlier. Meanwhile, homes in the Rs 2–5 crore bracket expanded to 20 per cent from 17 per cent, and those in the Rs 1–2 crore range rose to 33 per cent from 31 per cent, indicating rising demand across mid-to-high value segments.

Apartments measuring up to 1,000 square feet accounted for 81 per cent of total registrations, underlining continued demand for compact homes. The Western Suburbs further consolidated their leadership as Mumbai's most active housing corridor.

The report concluded that demand is increasingly gravitating toward well-connected suburban micro-markets offering accessibility, liveability, and price flexibility, positioning them as the primary growth engines of Mumbai's evolving housing market.

## Scindia to inaugurate 'Bharat Pavilion' in Barcelona

**NEW DELHI**

Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya M. Scindia is set to inaugurate the Bharat Pavilion at the prestigious Mobile World Congress 2026 in Barcelona from March 2 to March 5, 2026.

The Bharat Pavilion will serve as a global platform to showcase India's rapidly expanding telecom manufacturing capabilities and its vibrant innovation ecosystem, according to an official statement issued on Sunday.

The Minister's participation at MWC 2026, regarded as the world's largest and most influential technology and telecommunications gathering, underscores India's growing stature as a global leader in the digital and mobile ecosystem. During the event, Scindia will also unveil the curtain raiser for India Mobile Congress 2026, highlighting India's flagship digital technology forum that brings together policymakers, industry leaders, and technology experts from across the globe.

The visit is aimed at deepening international partnerships through strategic engagements with governments, global industry leaders, and technology innovators. The Ministry of Communications stated that the Minister's interactions will focus on attracting investments, fostering collaboration, and strengthening India's role in shaping secure, inclusive, and future-ready digital networks worldwide.

At the global platform, Scindia will deliver an address at the GSMA Ministerial Programme titled Built for What's Next, where world leaders will deliberate on future-ready digital infrastructure and emerging technology frameworks. He is also scheduled to deliver the closing keynote session, Breaking the Cost Barrier, which will focus on building affordable, inclusive, and scalable digital connectivity models for global adoption.

In addition to keynote sessions, the Minister will participate in a CEO dinner hosted by India and hold discussions with global business leaders. He will conduct focused booth visits and attend technology demonstrations by leading international and Indian companies. Notably, Scindia will visit the booth of Tejas Networks for the launch of the T31600-D3 Hyper-scalable DCI Platform, marking a significant milestone in India's advanced telecom product development.

The Ministry emphasized that the Minister's engagements at MWC 2026 reflect India's commitment to accelerating digital transformation and expanding its footprint in the global telecommunications landscape.

### Hyundai India clocks 12.6% jump in February sales

**NEW DELHI**

Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) on Sunday reported a 12.6% year-on-year rise in total sales to 66,134 units in February 2026, marking its highest-ever February performance in India. Domestic sales increased 9.8% to 52,407 units, while exports surged 24.8% to 13,727 units. The strong combined performance resulted in Hyundai's best-ever February for both total and domestic sales. Managing Director and CEO Tarun Garg said the company has carried forward January's record-breaking momentum into February, sustaining its growth trajectory in the new year. As Hyundai approaches 30 years of operations in India, it remains focused on expanding access to advanced connected technologies, enhancing customer ownership experience, and strengthening India's role as a global export hub.

Meanwhile, Kia India reported its highest-ever February wholesales at 27,610 units, up 10.3% from 25,026 units a year earlier, marking its second consecutive month of double-digit growth. Strong demand for models such as the Kia Seltos, Kia Sonet and Kia Carnival, along with its EV offerings, supported performance.

**INFRA BOOST**

## *Gujarat gets record Rs 17,366 cr railway allocation*

**AHMEDABAD**

Gujarat has been allocated Rs 17,366 crore in this year's Union Budget for railway development, marking a sharp rise compared to previous years, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Sunday.

Speaking after inaugurating the Gujarat Semiconnect Conference-2026 at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Vaishnaw said that under the leadership of Narendra Modi, railway infrastructure across India is undergoing rapid transformation. He stated that historic decisions taken by the Central Government for the comprehensive development of railways in Gujarat have ushered in a new era of transportation and connectivity in the state.

The minister noted that during the UPA government between 2009 and 2014, Gujarat received only Rs 589 crore annually for railway projects. In comparison, the present government has allocated Rs 17,366 crore for Gujarat this year, which is a record-breaking budget, he said, adding that the manifold increase would significantly modernise the state's rail network and enhance passenger amenities.

Vaishnaw further informed that railway projects worth Rs 1.28 lakh crore are currently under execution in Gujarat. Under the Amrit Station Scheme, 87 railway stations in the state have been selected for redevelopment as world-class facilities, of which 21 have already been completed. Redevelopment work is progressing at key stations including Ahmedabad, Sabarmati, Surat, Una and Somnath.

After redevelopment, Ahmedabad railway station will provide passengers with international-level facilities, he said.

Referring to India's first high-speed rail corridor between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, Vaishnaw said the Centre is preparing to operationalise the bullet train next year. Once completed, travel between Ahmedabad and Mumbai will take just one hour and 57 minutes at a speed of 350 kilometres per hour, he added.

Senior officials from Japan's Prime Minister's Office recently reviewed the progress of the project and expressed satisfaction.

The minister also stated that Prime Minister Modi has approved seven new high-speed rail routes to connect other cities in the future. He credited the cooperation of the Gujarat government under Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel for helping projects advance faster than scheduled timelines, emphasising that modern railways and high-speed connectivity would significantly strengthen the state's transport infrastructure.

# Inter Tighten Grip on Serie A after Champions League Exit

## Dimarco strike and Calhanoglu penalty seal crucial Genoa victory

**MILAN**

Inter Milan resumed their relentless march towards the Serie A title with a composed 2-0 win over Genoa, bouncing back emphatically from their midweek Champions League elimination.

Goals from Federico Dimarco and Hakan Calhanoglu extended Inter's lead at the top to 13 points over city rivals AC Milan, putting the Nerazzurri firmly in control of the Scudetto race.

Inter's domestic dominance has been striking. They have dropped just two points in

their last 15 league matches and look a class apart in Italy's top flight. The victory, however, came against the backdrop of a humbling 5-2 aggregate defeat to Norwegian side FK Bodo/Glimt in the Champions League — a result that raised uncomfortable questions about both coach Cristian Chivu's squad and the broader strength of Italian football.

There was little sign of lingering doubt in the first half as Dimarco produced a moment of brilliance in the 32nd minute. The Italy international exchanged passes with Henrikh Mkhitaryan before unleashing a stunning first-time volley from a tight angle.

The game drifted thereafter until Alex Amorim handled a cross from Luis Henrique inside the area. Calhanoglu, returning from muscle problems, calmly converted the resulting penalty to secure the points.

Elsewhere, Romelu Lukaku scored his first goal of the season with a dramatic last-gasp winner as SSC Napoli edged Verona 2-1 to stay in the hunt for Champions League qualification. Napoli, however, remain 14 points behind Inter, effectively ending their title defence.

With the Milan derby looming next weekend, Inter's fans are already celebrating. Barring a dramatic collapse, the Scudetto appears destined for the blue-and-black half of Milan.

# REAL MADRID, MAN CITY SET FOR BLOCKBUSTER CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LAST-16 CLASH

**NYON, SWITZERLAND**

European heavyweights Real Madrid CF and Manchester City F.C. will once again collide in the UEFA Champions League knockout rounds after being drawn together in the last 16. The tie marks the sixth meeting between the two sides in the knockout phase since the 2019-20 season, underlining what has become one of modern football's fiercest rivalries. The teams have already faced each other earlier this campaign, with City staging a comeback to defeat the 15-time European champions 2-1 in December's group-stage encounter.

City's director of football, Hugo Viana, welcomed the heavyweight showdown. "We played against each other already in the group phase, so it'll be a really nice game to watch. It's like a final, we are happy to go there again," he told UEFA.

Defending champions Paris Saint-Germain F.C. will take on Chelsea F.C. in a repeat of last year's fiery Club World Cup final. Chelsea director David Barnard said the clash "holds no fear" despite PSG's status as reigning champions.

Premier League leaders Arsenal F.C. avoided the biggest names after topping the league phase with eight wins and will face Bayer 04 Leverkusen. Should they advance, Arsenal will meet either Sporting or Bodo/Glimt in the quarter-finals.

Elsewhere, FC Bayern Munich were paired with Atalanta, while FC Barcelona will face Newcastle United. Liverpool take on Galatasaray, and Tottenham Hotspur meet Atletico Madrid.

The last-16 ties will be played on March 10-11 and March 17-18, with the final scheduled for May 30 at Puskás Aréna.

With several powerhouses stacked on one side of the draw, the road to Budapest promises high drama and another chapter in the Real Madrid–Manchester City saga.

*City boss confident striker will return soon from minor injury*

# Guardiola Plays Down Haaland Injury after Narrow Leeds Victory

**MANCHESTER**

Pep Guardiola expects Erling Haaland to be sidelined only briefly after the striker missed Manchester City's crucial 1-0 win over Leeds United in the Premier League.

Haaland was a surprise absentee at Elland Road following a minor knock sustained in training on Thursday. However, Guardiola insisted the injury is "not a big issue" and expressed hope the Norwegian forward will return soon.

City coped well without their prolific scorer as Antoine Semenyo's first-half strike secured a fourth consecutive league victory. The result leaves the defending champions just two points behind leaders Arsenal, who face Chelsea on Sunday.

" We don't have spies in the training centre to deliver the info to our media. I think it is not a big issue. We will see," Guardiola said when asked about Haaland's condition. Pressed further on a timeline,

he added: "I don't know. I wish he comes back."

Despite boasting a marginally better winning ratio without Haaland this season, City had to dig deep in a hostile atmosphere at Elland Road. Semenyo's close-range finish followed slick build-up play involving Rayan Cherki and Rayan Ait-Nouri, both part of Guardiola's squad rebuild over the past 18 months.

"Complete game, in a tough place, and 10 games left. Time to be decisive," Guardiola said, praising his team's mindset and commitment as the title race intensifies.

City's fate remains in their own hands, with 10 wins from their remaining fixtures guaranteeing the trophy regardless of Arsenal's results. However, Guardiola was cautious about title talk, stressing the importance of securing Champions League qualification — a competition City have featured in consistently for over a decade.

"One game at a time," he said. "The Premier League is better than ever."

# Asian Champions League Matches Postponed Amid Tensions

**DOHA**

The Asian Football Confederation has postponed several AFC Champions League Elite fixtures scheduled in the Middle East this week due to the ongoing regional conflict, it confirmed on Sunday.

Four first-leg matches in the round of 16, originally set to take place in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar on Monday and Tuesday, have been deferred. The affected ties involved clubs from the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

In a statement, the AFC said it would "continue to closely monitor this rapidly evolving situation" while prioritising the safety and security of players, officials and supporters.

The region has been on heightened alert since Saturday following air strikes launched by the United States and Israel on Iran. Tehran subsequently retaliated with attacks targeting locations across the region, including in the UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

# Jayasuriya Mulls Sri Lanka Exit after T20 World Cup Disappointment

**PALLEKELE**

Sanath Jayasuriya has hinted he could step down as Sri Lanka head coach following the team's underwhelming campaign at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, though he has yet to make a final decision.

Speaking after Sri Lanka's narrow five-run defeat to Pakistan national cricket team, Jayasuriya admitted he was disappointed with how the tournament ended. His current contract with Sri Lanka Cricket runs until June 2026, and discussions over his future are expected in the coming weeks.

"I thought I should give that title to someone else," Jayasuriya said, referencing earlier comments during the England series where he suggested he had no long-term

plans to remain in the role. "My contract ends in June. I have not given my official decision yet. I need to discuss with them what comes next."

Sri Lanka's campaign showed early promise but ultimately faltered. After progressing from the group stage despite a shock loss to Zimbabwe, they failed to maintain momentum in the Super 8 phase. Consecutive defeats to England, New Zealand and Pakistan ended their semifinal hopes. The loss to Pakistan proved especially painful, as Sri Lanka fell just short while chasing 213 despite an unbeaten 76 from captain Dasun Shanaka.

The early exit marked the fifth straight T20 World Cup in which the 2014 champions have failed to reach the semi-finals.

Jayasuriya, who took charge in mid-2024, oversaw notable successes in other formats, including a historic ODI series win over India and a Test triumph at The Oval. Across 76 matches under his tenure, Sri Lanka won 34, reflecting gradual progress despite struggles in T20 cricket.

With Sri Lanka Cricket reportedly exploring potential foreign candidates, Jayasuriya's future now hinges on upcoming discussions.

# PSG Stretch Ligue 1 Lead with Narrow Win at Le Havre

**LE HAVRE**

Paris Saint-Germain extended their advantage at the top of Ligue 1 to four points with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Le Havre AC on Saturday, courtesy of a first-half strike from Bradley Barcola.

PSG capitalised on slip-ups by second-placed RC Lens, who have endured a difficult week following a 3-2 home defeat to AS Monaco and a 1-1 draw at RC Strasbourg Alsace on Friday.

Luis Enrique's side have now recorded nine wins from their last 10 league outings, underlining their consistency in the title race. However, the breakthrough at Stade Oceane did not arrive until the 37th minute. Deployed in an unfamiliar central role, Barcola rose to head home a precise cross from Lee Kang-in, giving the visitors a deserved lead.

PSG nearly doubled their advantage shortly afterwards when Lee spurned a clear opportunity, while new signing Dro Fernandez saw his effort ruled out for offside moments later.

Le Havre offered little attacking threat for much of the contest but nearly snatched an equaliser early in the second half. Issa Soumare's sharp turn and shot in the 54th minute forced PSG goalkeeper Matvey Safonov into an alert save.

The visitors had a golden opportunity to seal the points in the 79th minute after Desire Doue was brought down by Lucas Gourna-Douath inside the area. However, Doue's penalty was denied by Le Havre keeper Mory Diaw, keeping the hosts in contention until the final whistle.

Despite the narrow margin, PSG's defensive discipline ensured they secured all three points. Le Havre remain 13th, nine points clear of the relegation zone, while PSG strengthened their grip on the Ligue 1 summit as the season heads into its decisive phase.

# Harry Kane Targets Lewandowski Record after Brace in Dortmund Thriller

**DORTMUND**

Harry Kane believes he is perfectly placed to challenge Robert Lewandowski's single-season Bundesliga scoring record after scoring twice in Bayern Munich's thrilling 3-2 win over Borussia Dortmund.

The England captain netted from open play and added a composed penalty as Bayern came from behind, ending Dortmund's slim title hopes. It was Kane's fourth straight league match with a brace, lifting his Bundesliga tally to 30 goals this season.

With 10 games remaining, Kane is 11 goals short of Lewandowski's record of 41, set in 2020-21. That campaign saw Lewandowski eclipse Gerd Müller's long-standing mark of 40 goals from 1971-72 — once considered untouchable.

"I'm in a good moment. I've got to keep doing what I'm doing," Kane told Sky Germany. "There's still a lot of games to play. I need to stay consistent. We'll see come late April or May if it's possible."

The 32-year-old has 45 goals in all competitions — already a career-best return. His movement, finishing and leadership have transformed Bayern's attack this season, making him the focal point of their domestic and European ambitions. Bayern's win stretched their Bundesliga lead to 11 points, but Kane urged focus: "It's not over. We've seen how quickly things can change."

For now, though, the record chase continues to gather momentum with every passing match.

# Medvedev Claims Dubai Title after Griekspoor Withdraws Injured

**DUBAI**

Daniil Medvedev was crowned champion of the Dubai Tennis Championships after opponent Tallon Griekspoor withdrew from the final due to injury, tournament organisers confirmed. The Russian, a former world number one, secured the title via walkover after Griekspoor was unable to recover from a hamstring problem sustained during his semi-final clash. Medvedev had been in impressive form throughout the tournament, reaching the final without dropping a set.

Griekspoor revealed after his straight-sets victory over Andrey Rublev in the semi-finals that he had been struggling physically. The Dutchman admitted he would have been forced to retire had the match extended further, casting doubt over his ability to compete in the final. Medvedev had booked his place in the title clash by defeating Felix Auger-Aliassime in the last four, keeping alive hopes of a second Dubai crown. His dominant run in the tournament underlined a return to top form as he continues to rebuild momentum on the ATP Tour.

Despite lifting the trophy, Medvedev expressed sympathy for his opponent. "Not how I want to win a final. Hoping the injury for Griekspoor is not too bad and wishing him a speedy recovery," he wrote on X.

The walkover marked a disappointing end to what had been a breakthrough week for Griekspoor, who impressed with resilient performances en route to the final. However, the physical toll of consecutive high-intensity matches ultimately proved too much.

For Medvedev, the title adds another prestigious hard-court trophy to his collection and provides a timely confidence boost as the season gathers pace. While he would have preferred to claim the crown on court, the Russian will nonetheless take encouragement from an unbeaten run in Dubai as he targets further success in the months ahead.

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